

Hungary changes constitution

BUDAPEST (R) — Parliament passed Hungary's constitution of the Socialist Republic of Hungary on Wednesday, creating a new basic law for a return to multi-party democracy. Deputies voted by 333 to five, with eight abstentions, to accept nearly 100 modifications to the 1949 constitution drawn up after the Communist takeover. Until now, Hungary defined itself as a socialist People's Republic in which all power belonged to the working people and the Communist Party was the leading force. Under the modified constitution, Hungary will become an independent, democratic and constitutional republic asserting "the values of both bourgeois democracy and democratic socialism." Justice Minister Kálmán Kulcsár said the changes, affecting 90 per cent of the old constitution, could be seen as creating a "transitional constitution" to change Hungary's political system. Hungary's first free elections since 1947 are due to take place by the end of the year.



Jordan Times

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A masked Palestinian tightens a chain pulled around his neck during a protest march in the occupied West Bank

Israeli troops storm U.N. centre

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops stormed a United Nations welfare depot in the occupied Gaza Strip Wednesday, arrested three U.N. staff and smashed the windows of a U.N. vehicle, a witness and officials said.

An official of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said two international staff members and a Palestinian employee were arrested during an army raid on an UNRWA food distribution centre in the Dir Al Balah Palestinian refugee camp. The two foreigners were released after three hours and the Gaza was expected to be freed later in the day, said the official, spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity.

A foreign news photographer who witnessed the arrests said

there was no demonstration in progress and he saw no apparent reason for the incident.

UNRWA's official spokesman could not immediately be reached for details.

In Gaza's Shati refugee camp, troops shot and wounded at least three protesters in a dawn clash that erupted when the army lifted a curfew imposed Monday, local hospitals reported.

Troops reimposed the curfew, residents said.

In the West Bank village of 'Ain Arik, troops on a search-and-arrest operation fired on stone-throwing protesters, wounding at least three teenagers, Palestinian sources said.

Bethlehem residents said troops impersonating tourists arrested a masked youth who allegedly stoned a uniformed

army patrol.

In September, soldiers posing as tourists shot dead a Palestinian demonstrator in Bethlehem, sparking protests from the town's mayor and Israeli officials.

Meanwhile, some 4,500 Christian fundamentalists marched through the streets of Jerusalem Wednesday to show "solidarity" with Israel.

"There are too many people against Israel, cutting it down," said Frank Sellinger, 21, of Louisville, Kentucky. "We want to show the Israelis that there are those who love and support Israel as well."

Many in the parade along Jaffa Road, a major Jerusalem shopping street, wore festive native costumes and waved their national flags. About 1,000 Israelis mar-

ched, too, as part of an annual holiday hike through the city.

The route was heavily guarded by policemen and squads of paramilitary border police and soldiers in full battle gear.

Participants said they were not frightened off by the 22-month Palestinian uprising.

The Christians, from 67 countries, are holding a six-day convention here to coincide with a Jewish holiday which concludes Saturday.

The programme is sponsored by the International Christian Embassy, an umbrella organisation for Christian groups that support Israel.

Some of the participants came from countries that have no diplomatic relations with Israel, such as China and East Germany.

Kaddoumi: Palestinians should ask for more

LONDON (Agencies) — Top Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Fawzi Kaddoumi, in remarks published Wednesday, urged Palestinians to demand more from Israel and the United States.

Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department and the equivalent of a foreign minister, told the London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat that Israel and Washington should be compelled to recognise the PLO as sole representative of the Palestinian people.

"The United States must know the PLO and its Executive Committee, in its capacity as the provisional government (of Palestine) is the only partner (with Israel) in any negotiation," he said in an interview broadcasted Abu Dhabi.

From time-to-time Israel and its U.S. backer came up with proposals or ideas and when one or another Arab party accepted them, Israel would then declare its objections, seeking more concessions from the Arab side, he said.

"We must urge more of what they offer. We must not be satisfied with mere rejection but develop what they offer and ask for

more," Kaddoumi was reported as saying.

Kaddoumi's remarks follow a meeting in Baghdad this week of the Palestine Central Council, which has spurned U.S. mediation efforts and stuck to demands for a central role in the peace process.

Hardline Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said that Israel was heading for a clash with the United States over Middle East peace moves, but he vowed Israel would never give up the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shamir was Wednesday quoted as saying PLO resistance to Palestinian-Israeli peace plans strengthened the Zionist state's resolve to find an alternative negotiating partner.

Shamir warned Tuesday that Israel was heading for a major clash with the United States over Israel's refusal to give up occupied Arab territory.

"It is not simple to go to a confrontation with the strongest state in the world. We are not interested in confrontation, but the United States must know Israel has issues it will stand firm on until the end."

"In all regarding the 'land of Israel,' we will stand firm and not give in (even) if we must face a

clash," Shamir said.

Earlier on Tuesday he told his Likud party caucus that tension with Washington was Israel's most "serious problem."

He accused the United States of putting pressure on Israel to talk to the PLO and to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The United States wants to get Israel out of 'Judea, Samaria' (the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip. The Americans want to bring us already to a meeting with the PLO," Likud parliamentarians quoted Shamir as saying.

In a sharply-worded statement, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said two speeches by Shamir to the right-wing Likud party Tuesday were "unhelpful and we are disappointed."

"We're not looking for a fight or confrontation with Israel...our only purpose is to help the government of Israel advance its own peace initiative," Tutwiler said.

In his speeches, Shamir warned Israelis they were on a collision course with the United States, Israel's greatest ally and supplier of \$3 billion in annual aid to the Zionist state, over the future of the occupied territories.

"We are not anxious to have such a quarrel with the United States. However, the United States must know that Israel will stand on the issue of the 'Land of Israel' until the very end," Shamir said.

Tutwiler said the suggestion that Israeli-American friendship was imperilled was "ridiculous."

She said Shamir had spoken with President George Bush on the telephone after the speeches were delivered. A senior U.S. official said Shamir's remarks had been discussed, but would not elaborate further.

The United States is hoping Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will not apply for a visa to address the U.N. General Assembly next month because officials say that could further upset efforts to get an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue under way.

The official State Department position is that they will decide whether to grant the PLO leader a visa only if and when he applies.

But officials say privately that the Bush administration has been sending Arafat signals that an application at this stage would not be helpful.

U.S. raps Shamir

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States rapped Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Wednesday for making remarks that were unhelpful and disappointing to Middle East peace efforts, sharply escalating tensions between Washington and the Zionist state.

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King receives Soviet message on Mideast

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the situation in the Middle East and current Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

The Jordan News Agency,

Petra, said the message was delivered to the King by the Soviet ambassador to Britain, but did not give further details of the message.

It said the King, in a reply message given to the ambassador, thanked the Soviet

leader and outlined his views on current peace efforts and the American initiative to bring about an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived here Tuesday after an official visit to Canada

during which the King held talks with Canadian leaders on Middle East peace prospects and Jordanian-Canadian cooperation.

During his stay in Britain, the King is scheduled to deliver an address at Oxford University.

At least 270 killed in California quake

OAKLAND, California (Agencies) — Aftershocks rumbled Wednesday as crews searched for motorists under an elevated highway collapsed by an earthquake that jolted northern California, killing more than 270 people and injuring hundreds.

The magnitude of the temblor, the second deadliest in U.S. history, emerged slowly as officials made contact with hard-hit areas, where many telephones were cut off.

The Tuesday evening quake, measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale, collapsed buildings across nearly 160 kilometres, along with the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and at two spans in the Santa Cruz area 120 kilometres to the south.

Severed gas lines sparked fires, including one in San Francisco that burned a block of buildings, but all were out or under control by Wednesday morning. As many as one million people were left without electricity and other services.

"The devastation is just horrible and we're just shocked," said Governor George Deukmejian, who cut short a trade mission to West Germany.

Aftershocks included one measuring 4.5 on the Richter Scale, according to the National Earthquake Information Centre in Golden, Colorado.

Those who died in their cars in the mangled wreckage of Interstate 880 in the city of Oakland — across the bay from San Francisco — were among the estimated 271 people killed by the powerful 15-second quake, said a spokesman for the California office of emergency services.

More than 500 people were injured in the tremor.

The earthquake was on the San

Regent cables condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday sent a cable to U.S. President George Bush expressing condolences over the destructive earthquake which struck San Francisco. The Crown Prince conveyed the condolences of the Jordanian government and people to the U.S. administration and people over the disaster. The Crown Prince also sent a similar cable to U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle.

Andreas Fault, a giant crack in the earth that runs almost the length of California. The great San Francisco earthquake of 1906, the most devastating ever to hit the United States, killed 452 people.

State authorities ordered an inquiry into why supposedly earthquake-proof roads and buildings collapsed.

"We have 253 (dead) in the Oakland highway collapse, six confirmed in Santa Cruz — could be up to 14 — nine in San Francisco and three in San Jose," said a spokeswoman.

"From Santa Cruz we have reports of lots of fires throughout the city, we have multiple building collapses, heavy rescue problems. There are city blocks on fire throughout Santa Cruz city," said the spokeswoman. The area includes Silicon Valley, the centre of America's computer industry.

President George Bush sent Vice President Dan Quayle and Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner to the area and will formally declare parts of the state a

disaster area, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

San Francisco was in a festive mood at the time of the quake, about to enjoy the third game of the World Series Baseball Championship between two local teams, the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland Athletics. Sixty thousand fans fled from the stadium and the game was postponed.

The quake ripped out sections of the packed bay bridge, connecting San Francisco with Oakland.

The devastated area is home to nearly two million people.

Rescue workers struggled to free people from trapped buildings while fires roared in the fashionable Marina area near the Golden Gate Bridge and other parts of the hilly tourist city.

Skyscrapers swayed as much as two metres, trapping people in lifts. A million people sat by torchlight in their homes after their power had been wiped out.

Looting broke out in some areas and gangs of youths roamed through slum areas with baseball bats, threatening passers-by. Troops were called out to patrol the streets and another 1,500 National Guard militiamen were being rushed to the city.

The worst disaster of the quake was the collapse of a mile-long stretch of Interstate 880, also known as the Nimitz Highway, which officials said was supposed to have been able to withstand an earthquake. It collapsed like a "concrete sandwich," said a spokesman.

Fire engines and ambulances, sirens howling, picked their way through a darkened San Francisco. Buses were jammed and traffic was backed up. Restaurants and bars operated by candlelight.

Taif talks seen near collapse

BEIRUT (R) — Three weeks of talks on an Arab League peace plan for Lebanon are on the brink of collapse with Christian hardliners insisting on the need for a Syrian troop withdrawal.

Muslim and Christian political sources said Wednesday the talks among 61 deputies in Taif, Saudi Arabia, which began Sept. 30, appeared to be headed for failure.

"But this does not mean it is over. Efforts are being made to find a way out of this deadlock," said an independent analyst, who added that Saudi Arabia was working hard to break the impasse.

The Taif talks were the second and most difficult stage of an Arab League peace plan to end six months of shelling in Lebanon which killed more than 800 people and wounded 3,400.

The battles began when Christian army chief General Michel Aoun attempted to extend his power into Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon and declared a war to expel Syria's 33,000 troops.

Christian hardliners, including Aoun, met in Beirut Tuesday and passed their minimum demands to Christian deputies discussing a compromise in Taif, political sources said.

They said the Christian leaders agreed that a committee on Lebanon consisting of the foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia should discuss Lebanese sovereignty with Syria.

The hardliners suggested that the committee and a Syrian representative should consider the objectives of the Syrian military presence in Lebanon and set a timetable for a pullout.

Lebanese analysts said the hardliners were trying to turn the emphasis back on Syria in an attempt to avoid being accused of blocking peace.

"We reaffirmed our attachment to the issue of sovereignty on which it is not possible to make any concession," said Danny Chamoun, head of Lebanon's National Liberal party, after meeting Aoun.

Sovereignty — code word for Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon — is the main hurdle to agreement in Taif. Aoun demands a timetable for Syrian withdrawal before any political reforms.

Damascus and most Muslim deputies, however, maintain that a Syrian pullout can be considered only after Lebanon is united under a new government and political reforms are enacted.

Diplomatic and political sources said the Christians had been repeatedly told Damascus refused to consider any change on a withdrawal to what it had endorsed in the Arab peace plan.

The Arab League's "national reconciliation charter," which formed the basis for the first two weeks of the Taif talks, makes no direct mention of a Syrian troop withdrawal.

It suggests Syrian troops redeploy to eastern Lebanon after election of a new president, the naming of a prime minister and political reforms to give the Muslim majority more power.

Political sources said the 31 Christian deputies in Taif were themselves divided with some willing to accept the charter and others demanding concessions to satisfy hardliners at home.

Egypt, Libya agree to set up 'offices'

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, marking an end to years of hostility, have agreed to set up offices in each other's capitals, an Egyptian minister was quoted as saying.

Mubarak and Qaddafi, who held two days of reconciliation talks Monday and Tuesday, stopped short of declaring a resumption in diplomatic relations during their meetings.

But the Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Sharif as saying Tuesday that the two had agreed to set up offices in Tripoli and Cairo. He gave no further details.

Libya and Syria are the only Arab countries which have not

yet restored diplomatic ties with Egypt, severed in 1979 following Egypt's treaty with Israel.

But relations have improved slowly since Qaddafi and Mubarak met at an Arab League summit in May.

Since then the desert border between the two countries has been reopened, flights have resumed and high-level envoys have been sent to both capitals to discuss future ties.

Sharif's one-sentence statement carried by MENA did not elaborate on the functions of the offices in Tripoli and Cairo but indicated the two countries are dealing with the issue of resuming diplomatic relations with cautiousness.

Libya calls its diplomatic missions abroad "people's bureaus."

The step, if it led to establishment of diplomatic relations, would be a big concession by Qaddafi who has been vowing he would not maintain diplomatic mission in Egypt as long as it hosts an Israeli embassy.

The announcement was made shortly after Mubarak returned home Tuesday from a brief visit to Libya where he held a second round of reconciliation talks with Qaddafi.

Mubarak did not talk to reporters upon arrival at Cairo airport from the Libyan border town of Tobruk where the talks were held.

His trip came a day after the U.S. State Department appeared to frown upon Mubarak's dialogue with the Libyan leader because of Qaddafi's alleged sup-

port of "international terrorism."

Mubarak's visit was the first by an Egyptian head of state in 18 years. The last such visit was by Mubarak's predecessor, Anwar Sadat, in 1971.

"We hope for success," Mubarak told reporters in Tobruk. "We have no differences on Arab issues. In the past there were differences in approaches and methods."

"The two leaders made it clear that Egypt and Libya were starting a new chapter," Sharif told reporters earlier Tuesday.

The two sides agreed to build a rail link connecting Tobruk with the Egyptian border outpost of Saloum, to begin studies into connecting their power grids and to set up a joint company for building water wells and dams.

Krenz replaces Honecker

BERLIN (Agencies) — Erich Honecker was replaced as Communist Party chief Wednesday, ending 18 years of iron-fisted rule as the government grapples with street protests and growing public demands for democracy.

State news media said the Communist Party leadership replaced the 77-year-old Honecker with Egon Krenz, a 52-year-old politburo member in charge of security who is an orthodox party member with a reputation as a hardliner.

Two other key members of the ruling politburo also lost their position in the shakeup.

The government-run news agency ADN said Honecker asked to be relieved of his official duties for health reasons. Honecker has reportedly been in ill health following a gall bladder operation in August.

But the East German leader also had been under increasing pressure to resign after a wave of

protests swept the country and pro-democracy movements picked up growing support.

Krenz said in a broadcast interview that he was taking over the leadership at a difficult time for the nation.

In an interview with East German television and carried by West Germany's ARD television network, Krenz said, "I realise this is a difficult task that I have taken over."

"In this very complicated time there is much work before us. Work, work and more work — but this is work that we should undertake gladly in order to improve the situation for everyone," he said.

Despite Krenz's reputation for Communist orthodox Party sources said he decided to call on police to stop beating pro-democracy demonstrators earlier this month in East Berlin and Dresden.

Politburo member Joachim

Herrmann, 60, who was in charge of the nation's media, and Guenter Mittag, 63, the architect of East Germany's economic policy, "were relieved of their functions," ADN reported.

It said both men had lost their posts on the Central Committee and the politburo.

The leadership shakeup was viewed in some quarters as an attempt to placate growing public demands for a freer press and economic reforms.

The demonstrations calling for reform have been the largest in the nation's 40-year history, and followed an exodus of tens of thousands of the nation's citizens that already has caused serious economic problems.

Honecker, who directed the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961, will also be relieved of his largely ceremonial post as head of state and his position as chief of the nation's military, ADN said.

U.S. reports increase in Soviet aid to Kabul

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soviet military aid to Afghanistan has recently increased, say U.S. sources.

The Soviets this month increased the proportion of arms in daily air cargo shipments to the Afghan capital of Kabul, according to a State Department cable obtained by the Associated Press.

Government sources, basing their calculations on cargo tonnage reported in the cable, said that monthly arms shipments rose to about \$400 million per month from the previous level of between \$250 million and \$300 million a month.

U.S. military aid to Afghanistan's Mujahideen guerrillas has been running at \$550 million to \$600 million per year, according to congressional sources, although the exact level of the covert U.S. programme is classified.

The increase in Soviet military aid to Kabul was to be discussed at a Capitol Hill news conference, by Sen. Gordon Humphrey, a Republican, and Reps. Charles Wilson, a Democrat, and Don Ritter, a Republican.

The State Department cable said the Afghan and Soviet governments boosted the proportion of weapons in air cargo sent to Kabul from about two-thirds of the daily volume to about three-quarters.

The cable challenged Afghan government assertions that attacks by the Mujahideen were causing food shortages in the capital.

"The real cause of any shortages lies in the Kabul regime's decision to give higher priorities to weapons supplies than food," said the cable.

"Most observers believe that the regime is currently allocating over three-fourths of its cargo capacity to moving other cargo, principally munitions, including large supplies of weapons which serve no defensive purpose, such

as Scud missiles," said the cable. The report of increased arms shipments came the day after Secretary of State James Baker, in a speech in New York, said an earlier boost in Soviet arms deliveries had prolonged the fighting.

One administration analyst, however, said that calculating the exact tonnage and value of Soviet arms shipments to Kabul was very uncertain.

The increase in Soviet arms shipments, and problems among the guerrillas, who have fought among themselves, have prompted the United States to find new arms routes to the rebels; say congressional and White House sources.

The CIA, working through Pakistani intelligence, is sending fewer arms through seven resistance parties based in Pakistan, and channelling them instead to guerrilla commanders who control the countryside and who increasingly are thought to hold the key to Afghanistan's future, according to the sources.

Neither the Afghan interim government, forced last February by rebels in Pakistan after Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan, nor the guerrilla commanders have shown inclination to compromise with Kabul. Government forces remain entrenched in Kabul and other major cities, and the battlelines have shifted little since the Red Army left.

U.S. arms shipments to the rebels slowed to a trickle at the beginning of the fighting season last summer, say administration, congressional and Afghan sources, although that point is in dispute.

Rebels report advance on Khost

Meanwhile, guerrillas have advanced on the eastern town of Khost and the government reportedly is trying to resupply its

troops there by land and air. Western diplomats said Tuesday, U.S.-supported anti-Communist rebels launched a major offensive against the heavily fortified garrison town several weeks ago, and the sources said guerrilla fighters have moved within five kilometres of the Khost Airport.

One source, presumably with access to satellite pictures, also said that "photographs show parachutes inside the Khost perimeter. ... There is clear visible evidence of air droppings."

Rebel sources said government planes two weeks ago had parachuted 44 barrels of fuel to the area for its forces, but only about eight reached its target and the remainder landed in guerrilla-controlled areas.

In Kabul, a government spokesman said troops had spent the last two days strengthening their positions in Khost after several days of fighting.

The spokesman, who declined to be identified, said government forces had come under long-range missile attack and heavy weapons fire, and that three soldiers were wounded.

None of the reports could be independently verified. Rebel control of Khost, about 16 kilometres from the Pakistan border, would open direct supply lines to guerrilla bases in central and northern Afghanistan.

The Western diplomats said Tuesday a 200-vehicle convoy left Kabul late last week with supplies bound for Khost. They said it was moving slowly towards Gardez, about 75 kilometres northwest of Khost, according to diplomats.

The same sources said Soviet-made Antonov cargo planes have been landing at Khost during the night, but they only stay on the ground 10 minutes.

Diplomats also said rebels have blockaded the 125-kilometre highway linking Afghanistan's capital of Kabul to the eastern city of Jalalabad.

U.N. approves stronger ties with Arab League

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States and Israel cast the only negative votes when the General Assembly approved an annual resolution calling for strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and the Arab League.

The vote was 143 to two, with no abstention.

The Assembly earlier approved by consensus a resolution sponsored by 20 West European countries requesting U.N. observer status for the Council of Europe, founded in 1949 and involved in most areas of global cooperation.

U.S. delegate Pearl Bailey said that, as in previous years, her delegation would vote against the draft on cooperation between the

United Nations and the Arab League.

She said it asked the U.N. Secretary General to try to implement U.N. resolutions that the United States had opposed as damaging to prospects for peace and security in the Middle East. "We cannot support adoption of a text that is so clearly inconsistent with United States policy," she said.

But the United States underscored its strong support for the efforts of a tripartite Arab League committee trying to settle the conflict in Lebanon, she added.

Aaron Jacob of Israel said that since Israel was established, the Arab League had pursued objectives and activities against his

country that were in direct contradiction to the U.N. charter.

The Arab League's Observer, Clovis Maksoud, said members of the League emphasised the importance of implementing U.N. resolutions and sought to use U.N. mechanisms to protect the rights of peoples and human rights.

He said the Arab League wanted an international conference under U.N. supervision to settle all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of relevant U.N. resolutions.

"The continuation of the uprising of the Palestinian people and the resistance to Israeli occupation and practices of repression is another evidence of a strong will

and determination to end all forms of occupation," Maksoud added.

Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens praised the Soviet Union Tuesday for abstaining when the U.N. General Assembly blocked an Arab-led challenge to Israel's U.N. credentials for the eighth consecutive year.

Arens also lambasted Arab states for raising the motion and said their refusal to accept Israel's existence was the major obstacle to Middle East peace.

By the biggest majority since 1982, the Assembly voted 95 to 37 with 15 abstentions Tuesday to take no action on the challenge to Israel's U.N. credentials.

"We are witnessing the continuation of the positive tendency on behalf of the Soviet Union and we hope that in the future they will be even more positive towards Israel," Arens said in a statement.

The Soviet Union, which in the past has voted to reject the Israeli delegation's credentials, broke diplomatic links with the Jewish state during the 1967 Middle East war.

But relations between the two countries have warmed in recent years with the exchange of consular missions, the expansion of cultural and other ties and the removal of most barriers to Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

Mubarak criticises Syria for allowing 'insults' by PFLP

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak has criticised Syria for allowing a radical Palestinian group to "insult" Egypt from its soil, the state-run Middle East News Agency said.

MENA carried Mubarak's comments from Tobruk, Libya where he spoke to reporters after meeting with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Asked if relations with Syria could improve as they did with Libya, Mubarak said "There is no problem between us and Syria."

"I know President Hafez Assad (of Syria) well and I know others there well and there is no problem with them except that I blame them for letting George Habash insult Egypt from Damascus."

Mubarak was referring to a warning made in the Syrian capital, Damascus on Oct. 9 by George Habash, chief of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

"I do not know George Habash personally, and I do not wish to comment further, but I say that this is not right."

"In his comments, Habash rejected a 10-point plan put forward by Mubarak for Middle East peace, and said the Egyptian President could suffer the same fate as his predecessor, Anwar Sadat who was killed by Muslim extremists on Oct. 6, 1981, partly because of his peace treaty with Israel."

"I advise Mubarak to stop his dependence on the United States... Otherwise, he might face the same destiny as his predecessor, Sadat."

Habash also said "we are facing two enemies: Israel, backed by the United States and Egypt, backed by Arab reactionary regimes."

Relations between Egypt and Syria have been tense since Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, and Damascus, along with Libya remain the only Arab countries that have not resumed diplomatic ties with Cairo following a 1987 Arab League decision to allow its members to do so.

Mubarak and Syrian President Assad have met on the fringes of Islamic and Arab League summits, and the two leaders repeatedly have said they had no personal conflicts.

But, their meetings did not materialise into reconciliation, unlike the rapprochement that is now happening between Libya and Egypt and that started with an Arab League summit in Casablanca, Morocco, last May where Mubarak and Qadhafi talked.

In his comments at Tobruk,

Mubarak also denied anew that Cairo was planning to name the Palestinians who would talk with Israelis in a suggested dialogue.

"From the first instant we have not said that we will choose the Palestinian delegation, so enough of such allegations."

Mubarak's so-called plan, actually a series of points requiring clarification from Israel, was meant to overcome Palestinian and Israeli objections of a number of suggestions made by each side to start peace talks.

His plan has been rejected by Israel and not welcomed by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, as has been his suggestion for both sides to meet in Cairo. However Mubarak said Tuesday that he does not object to holding the talks in Moscow as the Soviet Union has suggested.

Ethiopia to impose emergency—rebels

NAIROBI (R) — Ethiopian rebels said Wednesday President Mengistu Haile Mariam had escaped an assassination attempt and would soon impose a national state of emergency.

The Voice of the Tigray Revolution, clandestine radio of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), said the attempt was made recently by a special brigade guarding Mengistu, Ethiopia's undisputed ruler since 1977, but did not say where and how the attempt was made or how the heavily guarded Mengistu foiled it.

The radio also said TPLF and government representatives had recently met in London to explore possibilities of holding talks to end their 14-year war.

Diplomats in East Africa say there have been wild rumours about plots against Mengistu in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa since Mengistu violently crushed an attempted military takeover by the country's military commanders in May.

The rule of feudal Emperor Haile Selassie was toppled in 1974 by young military officers who set the nation on a radical Marxist path.

"The Dergue (government) will soon declare a state of emergency in Ethiopia and this has been confirmed by other sources," the TPLF radio said.

It said a series of meetings held for a month in London with the Addis Ababa government was a step forward. "If, in future, the Dergue wants to resolve the problem peacefully, the TPLF hereby expresses its sincere de-

sire for peace," it said. "However, if the Dergue wants to continue with its militaristic policy its actions will be repulsed utterly," the radio, monitored in Nairobi, reported.

There was no immediate confirmation from the government if the London talks had taken place. "Both sides have in the past said they were willing to hold peace talks but no venue or date has been set."

The TPLF, already in control of the vast northern Tigray province, has in the past two months been fighting alongside another rebel movement, the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement, to try to topple the government.

The two groups claim to have seized a string of government garrison towns mainly in the northern Wollo and Gondar provinces, killing thousands of troops.

The TPLF accepted the offer of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to act as an observer in peace talks with the government after Carter convened a round of preliminary talks between the government and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) last month in Atlanta, Georgia.

Meanwhile, Ethiopian rebels said Tuesday they had captured three government garrison towns in northern Ethiopia and fighting was continuing.

The TPLF radio, monitored in Nairobi, named the garrisons as Walda Delanta, Were Hemen and Kutaber, all in Wollo province north of Ethiopia's capital.

Garang: Khartoum will renew war

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese rebel leader John Garang, ending a seven-nation African tour, accused the military junta in Khartoum of preparing to renew fighting after an informal truce.

"The other side is moving to attack us... We don't have to wait for a bullet in our head," Garang told a news conference in Nairobi before heading for the southern Sudan civil war zone.

Garang, head of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, said he hoped his month-long African tour would lead to negotiations, but the junta had not responded

to an SPLA peace plan. The plan, which the SPLA presented to the junta in August, calls for a broad-based government, a new army, a conference to write a constitution and fresh elections.

He said the tour was a diplomatic triumph because the SPLA peace plan was supported by Kenya's President Daniel Arap Moi, whom he saw Monday, and other East and Central African leaders.

Garang visited Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Ma-

mozambique and Tanzania before arriving in Kenya Saturday. His journey back to southern Sudan marks the beginning of the dry season, when fighting usually increases.

Sudan's military leader Omar Hassan Ali Bashir, who seized power in June, has renewed a unilateral ceasefire which was due to expire on Nov. 4.

The SPLA declared an informal ceasefire in April when the United Nations launched a relief operation to deliver 100,000 tonnes of food to the south.

3rd PLO official killed in Sidon in 8 days

SIDON (AP) — The assassination of a third guerrilla official in 8 days sharply escalated tension Tuesday in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al Hilweh, where residents went to work to protest the shooting, police said.

Armed guerrillas loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat swooped through the narrow alleys of the densely populated shantytown early in the day after one of their colleagues was shot dead by unidentified assailants.

A police spokesman, who cannot be identified in line with regulations, said Munir Saadi, a corporal with the PLO's military police in the camp, was shot in the head shortly before dawn.

Witnesses said pro-Arafat guerrillas fired their automatic rifles in the air in the traditional

way of expressing anger and shouted slogans blaming the killing on "agents of Israel."

Brig. Wajih Abu Ali, commander of the PLO's military police in the camp on the eastern edge of Sidon, issued a statement blaming the killing on "a terrorist and criminal faction" which he did not name.

Saadi's assassination came one week after unidentified assailants gunned down Palestinian physician Ali Hassem in Ain Al Hilweh.

Hassem, a member of Arafat's mainline Fatah guerrilla group, was very popular among the camp's 50,000 refugees.

Hassem was killed one day after gunmen shot and killed a follower of Palestinian leader Abu Nidal in the camp.

Abu Nidal's Fateh-Revolution-

ary Council group identified its dead official only by his code name Sadeq and said in a statement he was also killed by "agents of Israel."

Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, broke away from Arafat's Fatah in 1973 and founded his own faction, basing it in Damascus.

Abu Nidal's group, has been blamed for a series of terrorist activities, including the December 1985 attacks on Vienna and Rome airports.

PLO spokesmen and Lebanese police have also blamed Abu Nidal's group for the abduction in Sidon Oct. 6 of Emmanuel Christen and Elio Enriquez, two Swiss working for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Sadeq's killing came a few days after the kidnapping, but it could not be immediately established if they were linked.

Meanwhile, the ICRC representative in Sidon, Roland Sider, discussed the pair's abduction with pro-Iranian clericlyman Sheikh Maher Hammond in Sidon.

Hammond, one of a few Sunni Muslim clerics cooperating with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, said the talks with Sider "focused on the abduction of the two Swiss citizens who worked for the humanitarian organisation."

"We denounce the abduction which targeted two people working for a humanitarian organisation that helps the Lebanese people," Hammond said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:00 Hit Squad
18:00 News for the Deaf
18:20 Religious programme
19:15 Health programme
19:30 Local programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local news
21:30 Programme review
22:40 Local programme
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Arab film

PROGRAMME TWO

17:20 Champs Elysees
18:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en France
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 Guinness Record
21:10 Max Headroom
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Will G. Gordon Lidy"

PRAYER TIMES

04:20 Fajr
05:37 (Sunrise) Duha
11:21 Dhuhr
14:13 Asr
17:04 Maghreb
18:21 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625441.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712361.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 711751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 827981, 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 813817 and 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The effect of the cold air mass will continue making it partly cloudy and rainy at times, and causing gradual drop in temperatures. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh causing dust in the eastern and southern parts of the Kingdom. In Amman, it will be dusty and partly cloudy with northerly fresh wind and rough sea.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 13 / 19

Aqaba 19 / 28

Desert 12 / 24

Jordan Valley 18 / 23

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20, Aqaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman 65 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Khalid Ma'adi 743500

Dr. Fayez Jallouza 624207

Dr. Issa Haddad 797007

Dr. Awwad Hawandeh 777665

First pharmacy 661912

Second pharmacy 783534

Al Asana pharmacy 637055

Nairoth pharmacy 626762

Al Salan pharmacy 636780

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamekani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Al Naqari (-)

Al Shara'a pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Mubashir Al Hijawi (-)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630451

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 811228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

COMPLAINTS

Consumer Complaints 897467

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Swiss Consulate 010290

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101

Jordan Telephone Repairs 661101

Arabic Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Abla Int. Airport 08-53200

IRBID:

Fluency Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn. 642816

Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn. 642816

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shamsani 6641714

Al-Bashir, J. Amman 669131

University Hospital 843845

Al-Munster Hospital 6672279

The Islamic, Abadi 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abadi 6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajir 7770103

Al-Bashir, J. Amman 77511226

ELECTIONS '89

By Nermeen Murad

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision not to exercise its option to bar political activists from running the Nov. 8 election to the Lower House has drawn expressions of wide relief from voters who advocate pluralism in political ideologies. But the other side of the coin shows that some candidates, after loudly calling for allowing political parties, are now crying help in some of the districts.

In the third district — more precisely in the contest to secure the lone Christian seat — some candidates were counting on article 18 E of the election law in their formula for victory. Now they are frantically consulting among themselves to bring about withdrawal of some from the race to allow non-politically motivated candidates to hold their grounds and retain some semblance of a chance to win.

We have already heard of one such withdrawal, obviously it will not be the last. The wisdom behind the government's decision to turn its back on Article 18 E is already showing itself. If only because it seems to be successful in reducing the number of candidates.

A CANDIDATE who invited his supporters and potential voters to a Mansaf party — 35 Mansaf trays no less — later was expressing his shock at his constituency's apathy.

THE SAME candidate addressing a meeting with rivals went out of his way to voice his strong support of women's rights. But he is known to have later confided in his friends that he could not believe that women were given the right to vote in the first place.

MANY candidates are now being recognized as ardent advocates of opening universities to all Tawfiq graduates, but in private they concede that the call is indeed "economically not feasible" and will not contribute to the proper development in the country. "We have to make a structural study of the needs of the country, but it is already obvious that what we need is more technicians, applied scientists, nurses and services personnel, rather than universities," is the private finding of one candidate.

Princess Basma visits U of J

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday stressed the need to have higher education institutions interact with society. During a meeting with female staff at the University of Jordan held Wednesday, Princess Basma noted also underlined the need to promote horizons of cooperation and provide the opportunity for society to benefit from women's scientific capabilities at the university.

The conferees decided to form a committee entrusted with the duty of preparing a formula to demonstrate the capabilities of university staff members and to ensure genuine interaction between university and society.

Princess Basma toured various university facilities and was accompanied by University of Jordan President Mahmoud Al Samra and a number of officials.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday endorsing an amendment to the Jordanian trade licence law. The amendment defined licence fees charged from craftsmen and the terms of reference of the municipal councils to issue these licences. The amendment also has provision for the protection of environment. (Petra)

CONDOLENCES: Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has delegated the assistant governor of Karak to convey his condolences to the Rawashdeh family on the death of the late Colonel Khalaf Rawashdeh. (Petra)

JORDAN TO ATTEND TUNIS TALKS: The Cabinet has approved Jordan's participation in the 7th session of the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID) due to convene in Tunis Oct. 22. The two-day meetings will discuss cooperation among Arab countries in the fields of industry, the AOID's future plans, and its budget for 1990. (Petra)

KHAYYAT RECEIVES ENVOYS: Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Wednesday discussed with French Ambassador to Jordan Dennis Bouchard means to bolster bilateral relations. Khayyat also received Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Makoto Watanabe at the conclusion of his tour of duty. The discussions dealt with bilateral relations and means to improve them. Present at both meetings was Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry Secretary General Dr. Ahmad Hlayyil. (Petra)

SAKET, UAE ENVOY HOLD TALKS: Minister of Agriculture Dr. Bassam Al Saket Wednesday discussed with United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador Mohammad Jassem Al Ali means to develop cooperation between the two countries. (Petra)

ARAB TRANSPORT COUNCIL MEETS: The executive bureau of the Arab Ministers of Transport Council opened a two-day meeting in Baghdad prior to the Arab transport ministers meeting due to open in the Iraqi capital Saturday. Matters related to joint Arab transport projects will be discussed by the bureau which groups Jordan, Iraq, Tunisia, Morocco and Saudi Arabia. (Petra)

JORDAN TAKES PART IN CONFERENCE ON DRUGS: Jordan took part in an international conference on drugs and medicines which was held in Paris under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (WHO). Pharmacist Nayef Hamameh, who represented the Health Ministry at the conference, submitted a working paper reviewing Jordan's experiments in the registration of drugs which are marketed in Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Foad Mimi and Ammar Khumash at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.
- ★ An Islamic book exhibition displaying a collection of books dealing with economic and literary matters related to Islam in addition to children's books, at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ A photographic exhibition depicting life as well as historical and archaeological places in Oman at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An Italian photo exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- ★ A French film entitled "Murdered House" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ A feature film entitled "Amadeus" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ An Italian film entitled "L'Albero Dei Diamanti" at Haya Arts Centre — 7:00 p.m.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday receives the deputy prime minister of the Soviet Republic of Latvia and his accompanying delegation at the Royal Court in Amman (Petra photo)

Number of tourists expected to rise by 15% in '90 — Hikmat

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The number of tourists to come to the Kingdom in 1990 is expected to rise by 15 per cent over those of 1989; and this calls for proper measures and careful plans to absorb the increase and to benefit from this boom in the tourism industry, according to Tourism Minister Yamal Hikmat.

The tourism sites in Jordan in general and those of Aqaba and the Nabatean city of Petra in particular, are now witnessing a flood of visitors from Jordan and other countries; and therefore the ministry plans to expand its services and improve the resthouses to cope with the situation, the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

In the first nine months of 1989, the minister said, Jordan's tourists increased by 26 per cent over the same period of last year, thanks to the efforts to travel and tourist offices which have been closely cooperating with the Ministry of Tourism to boost the industry in Jordan, the minister said following the distribution of meritorical certificates to representatives of eight of these offices.

He said that the eight offices have together organised visits by tourists who spent more than 10,000 nights in the Kingdom's tourist attractions in 1988.

Hikmat expressed hope that these offices will cooperate with the Ministry of Tourism to work out detailed programmes to absorb further numbers of tourists in the country during the coming winter season.

Last month the Ministry of Tourism announced that the winter tourism season has started, and that some 700 tourists from Europe would be arriving in the port city of Aqaba as of October.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) organised two weekly trips from Helsinki, in Finland, directly to Aqaba during the past winter season, and tourist officials said that the flights could be increased in view of the rising demand on such weekly visits.

In 1988, Jordan was visited by 600,000 tourists earning the country some JD 230 million, according to Hikmat.

The minister said Jordan was visited by 94,000 tourists in the



Yamal Hikmat first nine months of 1989, compared with 75,000 in the same period of 1988.

Jordan, Iraq discuss training of preachers

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian-Iraqi agreement on religious and cultural affairs came under discussion here Wednesday by visiting Iraqi Ministry of Awqaf Under Secretary Mohammad Sharif and Dr. Ahmad Hlayyil, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs secretary general.

A statement later said that the two sides agreed to exchange expertise related to training of

mosque preachers and imams by organising courses at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Training Centre in Amman and at an institute run by the Iraqi Ministry of Awqaf in Baghdad.

Several Jordanian students will be accepted at an Islamic higher studies institute in Baghdad while Iraqi students will be offered courses at the Sharia College in Jordan, the statement said.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171-6

Democratic atmosphere should extend to press — journalists

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As Jordan, by all counts, appears to be on the verge of a new era in its history — be it political, economic or democratic — Jordanian journalists are seeking to consolidate freedom of the press. The argument goes that journalists, their association and the people from all sectors of the nation must struggle to achieve this right in order to function as the "fourth estate" and become a medium of conveying truthful information to the people of Jordan and the world at large.

speaking at a debate on the press and elections at the Professional Associations Complex Tuesday evening, the head of the Jordan Press Association, Hashem Khreisat, and two other journalists, Mohammad Tumaleh and Mohammad Madyeh, agreed that the current press in Jordan is not as it should be.

"The press will continue to fail in its role if it does not truly become a fourth estate," Khreisat told the audience, which included journalists and others.

He added that the Jordanian press and publications law — which gives authority to the government to close down any newspaper, and therefore puts many restrictions and limits on journalists' freedoms — must be cancelled. He asserted that the law was "an obstacle for journalistic development, and therefore, public development in awareness in political, economic and social changes."

"How can we become an authority, or a fourth estate, if we have no laws that protect our rights to write and report freely and honestly? How are we to serve the citizens with substantial and truthful information if the press does not belong to its own authority but belongs to a different authority?" Khreisat asked.

He pointed out that all the journalists who have either been dismissed from their jobs at newspapers or had been previously banned from writing by the government were treated so because of their opinions in their writings and columns. "And these jour-

nalists are not protected by the law," Khreisat said.

One of the speakers, Tumaleh, was introduced to the audience as having been fired "arbitrarily" Monday by the Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily "because of a couple of columns he had written that had offended the guilty."

Madyeh contended that the press "has become a toy in the hands of the authorities. Journalists are asked to be labourers for these authorities and are under the constant threat not to write freely on important issues."

Madyeh, who said he himself had faced prison terms and been banned from writing several times in the past 15 years, said that "this is not the time for media backwardness." He noted that "the elections are a step towards democracy, and the press should be given the same democratic atmosphere, especially where the elections are being covered."

"The press must be given the freedom at this point to write and publish people's feelings, and what they want, need and expect for a better future. Free press provides people with truthful and substantial views and information for the people to be able to create their own trends and develop their own views and values on different issues," Madyeh asserted.

On the other hand, Tumaleh was cynical about newspapers, saying that they "are handling the elections not as an important development in the Kingdom, but rather as a profit-making development for the publications."

"They see the elections as bringing in more money, especially when they all met and decided to increase the candidates' advertisement rate by 50 per cent," Tumaleh said.

He complained that only the wealthy candidates would be able to afford advertising in the local newspapers, and therefore only the wealthy will make it to parliament.

He added that the creation of the unified advertising agents for all local newspapers was another proof of profit-hunting from the elections.

People depend on press

On the importance of the press for the people, Khreisat said that a large section of the society depends on published information on certain local issues, especially the current elections.

He referred to a survey conducted at the University of Jordan on the effect the media had in moving the political and general awareness on the parliamentary elections. "The study found that 60 per cent of those surveyed depended on the media to learn about the elections, especially on publications," he said, adding that truth and objectivity must be provided for public awareness.

Khreisat cited factors that the press, including television and radio, should tackle in the elections to provide the public with information. The press should: — have an active role in showing the election process from all its aspects.

— Concentrate on the citizens' opinions; their worries and fears of the elections; what is expected from the people, what they expect from the future parliament and deputies and what are the issues that should be tackled.

This, Khreisat said, shows the general trend, and thus helps the candidates in creating their own programmes.

— educate people on the election process, and inform them of their rights and duties.

— present the written laws (electoral), analysis; statements and statistics on the developments of the elections.

— ensure substantial information and objectivity.

— institute new values and basis in dealing with elections through showing the past negative experiences, and finding different formulas that suit the new political, economic, social and cultural situation.

— publish daily columns or news to constantly update the public on the electoral developments.

— treat and analyse the positive and negative aspects of the electoral law within the developments of the electoral battles.

Crown Prince, Sharif Zeid hold talks with Latvian deputy premier

Israel seeks to absorb largest number of Jews on Arab land — Regent

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday discussed the Middle East question, Israel's violations in the occupied Arab lands and its constant drive to settle Jews in occupied Arab territories at a meeting with a visiting delegation representing the Soviet Republic of Latvia.

"Israel seeks to evict the Palestinian people from their land and drive them across the river into Jordan and other Arab countries in a bid to make way for newcomers," the Prince said with clear reference to recent reports about the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union.

Israel, he noted, "strives to absorb the greatest number of Jews and give them land which belongs to the Palestinian people; and is promoting this drive in its mass media and information services."

The Regent said at a meeting in Amman Monday that some 200,000 Jews were expected to leave their country, and only 18,000 would be taken in by the United States while the rest were expected to be absorbed in the occupied Palestinian land.

In reviewing the effects of Israel's occupation of Palestinian land, the Regent said Israel "stands to benefit economically by marketing its products in the occupied Arab region while it continues to exploit Arab natural resources and expropriate Arab lands for its agricultural projects and its settlements."

The Prince reviewed with the delegation, led by Alfred Chibanis, who is Latvia's deputy prime minister, relations between Moscow and Amman, and current efforts to promote bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Prince Hassan expressed hope that Soviet-Arab cooperation will be increased, and added that Jordan hopes the Soviet Union and the United States will promote the cause of comprehensive security in the Middle East region through their on-going disarmament talks.

Prince Hassan also briefed the visiting delegation on Jordan's endeavours to promote the national economy.

For his part, Chibanis expressed his country's appreciation of Jordan's efforts to reach peace, and landed the existing ties of friendship between the Soviet Union and Jordan.

Chibanis said he will convey Prince Hassan's views to the Soviet leadership.

Earlier Wednesday, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker emphasised the Jordanian government's interest in pursuing the course of close cooperation with

the Soviet Union in economic, cultural and touristic fields among other subjects of common concern.

The prime minister, who was speaking at a meeting with Chibanis and his accompanying delegation, paid tribute to the Soviet Union for its clear and positive policies towards the Arab World and its support for just Arab causes, including the Middle East and the Palestine issues in general and its supportive stand towards Jordan in particular.

The delegation is visiting Jordan to take part in week-long festivities marking the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Week.

Chibanis, for his part, voiced his country's concern to maintain the strongest possible ties of friendship and cooperation with Jordan.

He also paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's stands and his endeavours to attain peace at the regional and international levels.

The meeting was in the presence of Mr. Bahjat Talhoum, president of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, Deputy Prime Minister for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddin and Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuk.

The 24-member delegation will attend exhibitions and other events during the festival which will be held in Amman, Irbid and Aqaba; and will also attend lectures dealing with Soviet-Jordanian ties.

Arab ministers begin talks on environmental protection

CAIRO (Petra) — A Jordanian memorandum on the establishment of a regional centre in Amman to provide information about the environment to the Arab countries will be among the main topics on the agenda of a three-day meeting by ministers in charge of the environment in the Arab World.

Yousef Hmadan who represents Jordan at the meeting said that the ministers will also discuss a Jordanian recommendation on imposing a special tax on imported pesticides and on establishing a pan-Arab fund to finance projects related to the environment.

The meeting will deal with questions pertaining to desertification, industrial pollution,

education and information to the public about protecting the environment, the minister said in a statement at the start of the conference which is attended by delegates from 22 Arab countries.

According to the minister, the meeting will review the achievements of the Arab Ministers of Environment Council and their previous recommendations about measures to safeguard the environment.

University to host regional conference on chest diseases

AMMAN (J.T.) — At least 300 delegates from Arab and foreign countries will gather here next Wednesday for a three-day conference on chest diseases and surgery which will be held at the University of Jordan.

According to a committee preparing for the three-day conference, 67 working papers, including 12 from Jordan, will be discussed by the participants who represent various medical institutions and research centres.

Dr. Abdullah Al Qadad, the conference chairman, told a press conference here that the main speakers come from France, the United Kingdom, the United States, Netherlands, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait in addition to Jordan.

He said that diseases connected with smoking and the environment will be among the main topics, which also include heart and lung transplants, lung cancer

and respiratory diseases.

Dr. Nabil Samara, who chairs the preparatory committee, said that the specialists will exchange views about modern trends in medical practice, and will acquaint themselves with Jordan's experiences in chest treatment.

The conference was organised by the Jordan Society for Chest Diseases in cooperation with the

University of Jordan, the Faculty of Medicine at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, the Health Ministry, the National Medical Institution and the private sector in Jordan.

Samara said that the coming conference will declare the date and venue of the first Arab conference on chest diseases and chest surgery.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Black and white, loud and clear

ARE WINDS of change sweeping South Africa, heralding an end to the despicable apartheid practised by the minority whites against the majority blacks? Does this week's release of avowed activists of the African National Congress (ANC) signal a peaceful transition of the system in the country? Or is the release more of a strategy to forestall international sanctions than an actual push towards accepting the inevitability of acknowledging the rights of the blacks in their ancestral land?

These are the obvious questions that are raised in the international scene after the new president, F.W. de Klerk, graciously or otherwise, ended decades of incarceration of eight anti-apartheid activists. For all practical purposes, the assumption of power by de Klerk was welcomed by the international community as a stepping stone towards the recognition of the legitimate political rights of South Africa's blacks. So far, all indications are that he is treading middle ground, without wanting to impart an impression of being seen as breaking ranks with the old guard of Pretoria who cannot simply accept any change in the status quo. The continued detention of Nelson Mandela, the best-known anti-apartheid prisoner in the country, indicates that de Klerk wants to take things easy and gradual. But, sooner or later, he will have to cross that thin borderline and openly state his intentions.

The Commonwealth summit which opened in Kuala Lumpur Wednesday could step in and fill a key slot to convince the old school in South Africa that the international community means business through tightening pressure on Pretoria. The "conservative" (or is it the "stubborn") segment of the white supremacist South African society should be made to realise that it cannot hope to continue to ride on the yoke of oppression forever. For their own good, they should appreciate the reality that what is being eroded as time passes is the chance of peaceful black-white coexistence in their country, which, inevitably, has to make the transition, if not today then tomorrow. As and when it happens, it will be the future of the whites at stake and it will so be judged by the same measure of willingness they displayed to accept the idea of coexistence with equal rights with the blacks. It is no longer a question of ending apartheid, but of how soon and willing are the whites to accept it; this is the message that the Commonwealth leaders have to send to South Africa to boost the hands of the moderates in power there.

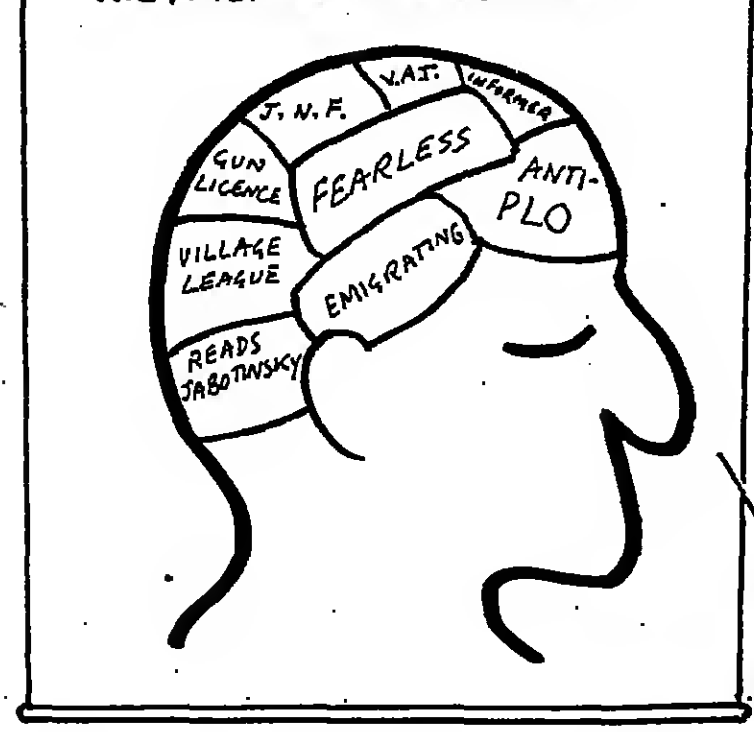
JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday warned of the danger inherent in the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Palestinian land, an issue raised by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent at a meeting with journalists on Monday. The paper said that 200,000 Jews are to be allowed to leave the Soviet Union, according to a recently disclosed plan, but only 18,000 will find their way to the United States. The bulk of the immigrants will settle in Palestinian land, corroborating Israel's hold over Arab territory and further aggravating the situation in the Middle East region, the paper noted. The sudden addition will no doubt create demographic changes in our region, but most importantly it will present another problem for the Arab Nation in general and Jordan in particular, the paper added. Jordan has been shouldering the brunt of the Palestinian problems since 1948, and has been providing refuge and assistance to the Palestinians, something that was instrumental in exposing the country to the present financial and economic difficulties, the paper continued. It said that new development in Palestine is bound to create further problems and therefore, the Arab World is called on to approach the Soviet Union and find out about the whole question, and discover if Moscow has now changed its position with regard to its ties with the Arab World.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily on Wednesday comments on a press conference by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masarweh in which he explained the government's position with regard to candidates running for the coming parliament. Tareq Masarweh says that he opposes the minister's views about denying a number of candidates the right to be nominated for elections on the ground that they come from tribal or badia regions, and must therefore be nominated in the badia area. The writer says that bedouins in Jordan who are affiliated to the badia region are on the decrease every year as more and more get settled and embark on agricultural projects. In such situation, candidates with badia backgrounds should not be barred from being nominated to run in urban districts, the writer suggests. But Masarweh pays tribute to the government's announcement that no candidate will be denied the right to run on the ground that he or she is affiliated to a political party. The writer notes that this is a very important development, and can only enhance cohesion among the members of the Jordanian family and help bolster the very calm and constructive atmosphere that is now prevailing the election campaign at all levels.

Al Dastour echoed Masarweh's views and said that the minister's announcement brought satisfaction to the Jordanian family in general and the candidates and voters in particular. Jordan has the right to take pride in this announcement since it reflects the country's true democratic life and an image of self-confidence which is prevailing all aspects of life in the country, the paper noted. It said that the minister's promise that the elections will be characterised with integrity and honesty has also served as a tool to strengthen the optimistic atmosphere in the country which is now witnessing a heavy election campaign. The paper said that the minister's statement is bound to help the country attain the best results of the coming parliamentary elections.

THE ACCEPTABLE PALESTINIAN



Baker's Middle East policy

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — For nine months, Secretary of State James A. Baker 3rd has been trying to jump-start the Middle East peace process with an approach that forces the parties to the conflict to take the lead and leaves America serving as a catalyst in the background. The next few weeks should determine whether Israelis and Palestinians will latch onto this approach as an original route to change or a novel way to keep things the same.

Mr. Baker's approach is based on several assumptions, the first being that the diplomatic opportunities in the Middle East, as well as the challenges to America's strategic interests there, are very limited. "Ten years ago you had soaring oil prices, the Soviet involvement and the danger of a regional conflict all driving movement in the Middle East," said Steven L. Spiegel, a Middle East expert at U.C.L.A. "Today you have none of those pressures."

Moreover, "before, you had bold risk-takers in Jimmy Carter, Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin," Mr. Spiegel said. "What you have left are survivors: Hosni Mubarak, Yitzhak Shamir, Yasser Arafat and George Bush. You are not going to get bold moves from these gentlemen. The only way to succeed is to out-manipulate these manipulators and out-survive these survivors and Baker has tailored his approach to that end."

Mr. Baker's strategy, administration officials say, also includes the following principles:

First, the parties themselves must come up with an initiative; otherwise they will just sit back and take potshots at Washington's proposals. Second, there can be no peace process without Israel's rightwing Likud Party, which dominates Israeli politics and resists territorial compromise. Third, the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir of Likud, wants to agree to negotiate with Palestinians, provided that his sensitivities about not dealing with the Palestine Liberation Organisation can be assuaged. Fourth, this approach can be pursued with phone calls and does not require a high-profile, politically risky visit to the Middle East by the Secretary of State. Fifth, Egypt can be a buffer for indirect Israeli-Palestinian talks until direct talks are possible.

Miles to go

Although Mr. Baker has managed to prod Mr. Shamir into coming up with a peace initiative of his own, calling for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and later talks with Israel, his strategy is being hotly debated. The most controversial point is whether Mr. Shamir is really willing to implement his own plan, if Mr. Baker will just go the extra mile to meet Likud's conditions for Palestinians to take part. A growing number of analysts believe that in going the extra mile to satisfy Mr. Shamir, Mr. Baker will find himself forever being presented with just one more mile to go.

For instance, on Oct. 6 Mr. Shamir rejected an Egyptian invitation for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo. The invitation was based on an Egyptian-proposed compromise intended to satisfy the Likud leader. The

Egyptians agreed that the Palestinians at these talks would be only from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, or Palestinians deported from these areas by Israel, and that the subject would be the Shamir election proposal. The deportees among the Palestinians would tacitly represent the PLO.

When Mr. Shamir rejected this, Mr. Baker suggested that Israel, Egypt and the United States draw up a list of Palestinians who would be acceptable. This put American efforts perilously close to the line between serious diplomacy and farce. Mr. Baker is now negotiating with Egypt and Israel on how to get a dialogue going between them for the purpose of organising a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians for the purpose of organising elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the purpose of electing Palestinian representatives who would negotiate with Israel on an interim settlement.

"Shamir has definitely won Round One with the Bush Administration," said Rashid Khalidi, a Middle East expert at the University of Chicago. "He has gotten them totally tied up in knots, without them even blaming him."

Administration officials understand they can't let this situation continue, but they defend the approach on two grounds. First, what is the alternative? Without Mr. Shamir's cooperation, there is no peace process. Second, if it turns out that Mr. Shamir is not serious, the Administration will make sure of a showdown between him and Washington. But then the administration will need Israel's support in Congress. That means giving Mr. Shamir every chance to say yes. But

where is the last milepost?

"Shamir is ready to deal if he can find a Palestinian that no one who is serious thinks really exists," said Stephen P. Cohen, director of the Montreal-based Institute for Middle East Peace and Development, and a person with close ties to Israel's Labour Party. "It is a Palestinian who is willing to do a deal with Israel outside of the authority structure of the PLO, who is ready to enter into negotiations with a Likud government without any assurance that the final outcome will be any different from the interim autonomy arrangements, and who has never engaged in any nationalist activity."

As for Mr. Baker's preference for telephone diplomacy over shuttle diplomacy — he personally has been handling all contacts with his Middle Eastern counterparts over the phone — the main advantage is that he is not tied up for weeks at the expense of more pressing issues like Eastern Europe. And he does not squander his personal authority and credibility trying to bring together parties when they don't appear ready to compromise.

If Mr. Baker's approach ever succeeds in getting the parties together for talks, his involvement could be interesting to watch. Mr. Baker is something of a fox, and in a way both Israeli and Arabs are just a bit afraid of him. He keeps them slightly off balance. He can twist arms and bargain with the best of them. He would not only fit comfortably into the bazaar of Middle Eastern diplomacy, but with the right raw materials, might well be quite effective — The New York Times.

Here we go again...

By P.V. Vivekanand

THE PENDULUM of the Middle East peace process has swung back to square one once again, this time with the apparent rejection by the Palestinian leadership of American proposals for Israeli-Palestinian talks. Regardless of the shortcomings in the U.S. proposal that led to the decision by the Palestine Central Council (PCC) not to take up the offer of talks, another excellent opportunity to call the Israeli bluff has been turned down. If anything, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) did the job for Israel, by absolving the Zionist state of having to take a formal government position on the U.S. proposal. Shamir and company should be feeling relieved.

One of the first questions that come to mind is: what did the PLO stand to lose if it was to explore the American offer? Although the U.S. proposal does not mention the PLO by name, and leaves many loose ends over the composition of a Palestinian delegation to the proposed talks, that should not have discouraged the PLO leaders from adopting the minimum action of exploring the idea further and seeking amendments to their liking. Not that such amendments would have materialised for the asking, but it would have acted as a sounding out board and forced the U.S. administration to adopt certain public postures over its fundamental position in the Arab-Israeli conflict and to draw a bottom line.

There is a multitude of factors that appear to have steered the thinking among PCC members who met in Baghdad Sunday and Monday. It is understandable that any proposal, American, Egyptian, Israeli, Japanese or Fijian, that appears to circumvent the central role of the PLO in the peace process will be rejected outright by the organisation's leaders, whether "moderate," "hardline" or "extremist." But, what appears to be lacking among the PLO leaders, more precisely, the leaders of the various factions, is the mutual trust and confidence to arrive at a unified strategy which will allow the organisation to step forward and accept any challenge on a case-by-case basis. Had the Palestinian atmosphere, at least at the level of the decision-makers, been conducive, then the story today would have been different. The PLO leaders would have been in a firm and strong position to take on any proposal from any quarters and examine its pros and cons in a different light, without having to look over everybody's shoulder among themselves.

A closer look at the PLO scenario will indicate that the only element that everyone agrees on is the ultimate goal: an independent Palestinian state. Agreement is lacking on even the modalities of negotiations through an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties involved and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. Surely, the Palestinians do not expect the West Bank and Gaza to be delivered to them in a silver platter. It is elementary that painstaking efforts have to be undertaken to bring about political negotiations. It has to start somewhere. But, every proposal that has been tabled since the PLO switched into moderation has come to a grinding halt before getting anywhere simply because of rejection by one or the other of the two sides to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

In more ways than one, outright Palestinian rejections of ideas floated by other parties, whether American, Egyptian or Israeli, owe their origins to the disarray in the ranks of the PLO leadership. Some might call it democracy at work, but the fact remains that leaders of hardline factions do not trust the mainstream leadership to do a good job resisting "Zionist-imperialist schemes" and are even afraid that the leadership, perhaps out of sheer despair, might "sign on the dotted line" as indicated by the Americans and Israelis.

To be fair, there can be no denial of the possibility that if the PLO were to agree that a non-PLO team, with Israel wielding veto power over its composition, could enter talks with Israeli delegates it could have set a dangerous precedent in diluting the PLO's representative status and, more important, could have led to deep splits between the Palestinians living inside the occupied territories and those in the diaspora. But, the PLO also has the option to call off such dialogue at the first sign of insincerity of the parties sitting across the table.

Furthermore, the feeling appears to be getting stronger among Palestinian ranks that the PLO is being taken for a ride by the Americans through the much-heralded "dialogue" in Tunis. But, if indeed the situation is so, it is incumbent upon the PLO leaders to put a brake on the ride and ask the Americans: "Where are we going?"

Could there be a better opportunity to do so than exploring an American idea and letting the Americans concede that the ride is going nowhere?

There is little doubt that the PLO leadership is betting on the intifada to escalate and push the Israelis further to the wall, generating increased awareness among the Israeli public of the dire need to address the situation. One of the bets is also the possibility that the shaky "national unity" coalition in Israel will break up over the Likud-Labour differences on the peace process. But what seems to have been overlooked in Baghdad this week is that it was upto the PLO to force the Israeli hand and seek to bring about a Likud-Labour "showdown"; it could only have materialised if the PLO was to pick up the American proposal and throw it back to the Israeli court.

Needless to say, the Israelis were so assured that nothing positive could come out of the Baghdad meeting that they did not feel any need to launch any internal debate of the American proposal simply because they knew very well that the PLO leaders could not agree on the Washington offer and let the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the U.S. discuss the next step.

So, where do the Palestinians go from here? Sit back and relax until the next "opportunity" comes along, only to reject it because they can't get their act together? Well, that seems to be the answer, unless of course the PLO leadership turn inwards and build that mutual confidence and trust among themselves to confront every situation with a united voice and strategy. Until then, they will have to put up the ongoing song and dance number over Palestinian representation.

Donor nations take control of UNHCR

By Claude Regis

Reuter

GENEVA — Major donor nations have taken virtual control of the crisis-hit U.N. organisation which looks after 14 million refugees worldwide, putting a question mark over the future of its chief.

"There has been what you could call a coup d'etat," said a Third World diplomat who attended the annual meeting of the executive committee of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which ended on Friday.

Its controversial head Jean-Pierre Hocke, who is held responsible for increasing costs and low morale among staff, is far from certain of keeping his job, U.N. sources said.

The budget, based mostly on voluntary government contributions, shot up to \$394 million in 1988, from \$281 million two years earlier.

The financial difficulties and fresh controversy surrounding High Commissioner Hocke gave Western nations the excuse they needed to bring both into line, U.N. sources said.

The 43-nation committee, dominated by Western donors such as the United States, the European Community and Japan, has tightened financial surveillance and put the UNHCR budget under control of a governmental working group.

It limited financial commitments to one-half year, drawing complaints from Third World nations that the move would prevent long-term planning for the care of refugees.

The committee slashed this year's budget to less than \$380 million from a planned \$420 mil-

lion. The second tranche of next year's budget of \$414 million will be released only after a review next June on how the first was spent.

Both measures, tantamount to a donor takeover, are unprecedented in the U.N. body's 40-year history and U.N. sources said they reflected a growing lack of confidence in its leadership.

U.N. sources said Hocke himself, under fire following disclosures that he used a secret fund for his and his wife's first-class travels while complaining that the organisation was broke, might be replaced before the end of his term.

The frontrunner for the job is Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, who was already mentioned as a possible successor last year when Hocke's first term ended.

The 51-year-old Swiss was confirmed for three more years by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and had U.S. backing despite a U.N. report criticising his high-handedness with staff which it said had seriously affected morale.

Under Hocke, the UNHCR has gone beyond emergency assistance of refugees and has branched out into development schemes in areas with many displaced people.

Donor nations ordered big programme cuts and suggested at the meeting that other U.N. bodies, such as the programme for development, and non-governmental organisations take over some UNHCR activities.

"Basically, donor nations want the UNHCR to restrict its operations to the original mandate it was created for after World War Two — protection of political refugees," a Third World diplo-

mat said.

He said the tightening up also reflected an underlying fear among Western nations that if the present trend went unchecked the UNHCR would eventually extend its action to include millions more fleeing violence or mass human rights violations.

"This split frightening visions of mass invasions in some indus-

trialised countries," he added.

A senior U.N. diplomat said Hocke's fate would depend on whether he was ready to accept a reduced role for himself and the institution.

"Perez de Cuellar may feel that the agency's image has been dented to the extent that only a new high commissioner can restore its credibility," he added.

By Marcus Eliason

The Associated Press

LONDON — Last week's annual Conservative Party convention revealed Thatcherism to be in trouble and striving for a kinder, more caring image.

Conservative conventions are traditionally designed less to thrash out policies than to cheer the leader and unite the troops. But this one seemed jinxed.

With the pound sagging and inflation resurgent, interest rates were pushed up to 15 per cent, an eight-year high, just five days before the convention opened in the seaside town of Blackpool.

Then, as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was winding up the convention with a rousing defence of her record, it was announced that the annual inflation rate had crept up from 7.3 to 7.6 per cent.

To compound Conservative worries, the opposition Labour Party has been topping the opinion polls for the past four months with a lead that averages 7 points.

That's normal against a government in mid-term, say Conservative loyalists. But after a decade in the minority, Labour is beginning to look like a credible challenger again.

At Labour's convention the previous week, vote-losing doc-

Thatcherism in trouble, looking for change

trines such as unilateral nuclear disarmament were dumped and the party's militant left wing, which had frightened off many voters in the past, was thoroughly sidelined.

Moreover, the centrist bloc, which had helped keep Mrs. Thatcher in power by siphoning votes from Labour, has disintegrated, and Britain is back to straight two-party politics.

None of this means an imminent end to Thatcherism, with its hatred for Socialism, distrust of trade unions and faith in market forces.

No election need be held until mid-1992, and Mrs. Thatcher, who turned 64 on Friday, looked her usual vigorous, combative self.

Even after 10 years in office — an exceptionally long time by British standards — she remains securely in charge, revered by her supporters as the warrior who vanquished the trade unions,

liberated the marketplace from Socialist regulation and restored Britain's self-esteem.

But even her best friends are telling her that she's in trouble.

When interest rates rose yet again, the Conservative Daily Mail newspaper demanded the resignation of Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, who only a year earlier was being hailed by Conservatives as a miracle-worker.

The pro-Thatcher Sunday Times reversed its past assessments and concluded bluntly that "there was no British economic miracle in the 1980s after all."

Once again, it said, the country faced "the perennial problems of the British economy — rising prices, balance of payments deficits... inflationary wage demands, slow growth and the huge structural rigidities which hold Britain back."

At the convention, many delegates were asking why, after 10

years of Mrs. Thatcher's harsh medicine, inflation and high interest rates are still around.

"Many people are feeling rather let down," delegate Peter Brown said. "They are rather upset that after 10 years of Conservative rule we should have got into these rather difficult times."

In the longer term, the convention was significant for the signals it sent out that Thatcherism itself is preparing for change.

Speakers seemed at pains to present a more compassionate brand of politics, even though that implies spending more taxpayers' money on public services and would have been regarded with suspicion by Thatcherite purists.

There was an unexpected government pledge of £1 billion (\$1.6 billion) to cushion Britons against an unpopular new property tax.

Mrs. Thatcher assured delegates that the cherished National Health Service was not going to be "privatised" on American lines, as some had feared. An expected promise to sell off the state-owned railroads never materialised.

The volatile issue of Britain's place in a united Europe failed to stir any fuss. Promises to protect the environment and enhance the quality of life got big cheers.

654 candidats pour les premières Législatives en 22 ans

Elections, la voie des urnes

Seuls sept dossiers ont été rejetés mardi à l'issue des trois jours d'enregistrement des candidatures aux élections générales du 8 novembre. Un seul retrait ayant été annoncé jusqu'à présent, 654

Jordanais se retrouvent en campagne pour accéder aux 80 sièges de la Chambre des députés et pour convaincre 1,2 million d'électeurs, dont bon nombre n'ont pas voté depuis 1967.

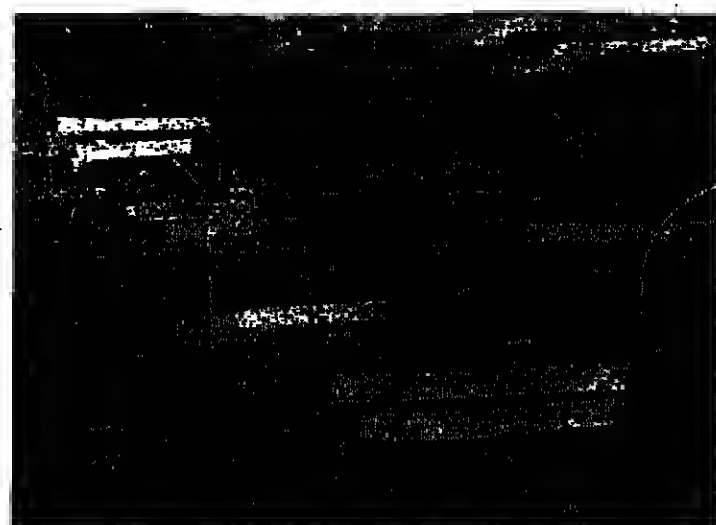
Parole tenue. En annonçant mardi qu'aucun candidat à la candidature d'avant été rejeté pour raison d'affiliation à un parti ou groupe illégal, le ministre de l'Intérieur a démontré que le souverain et le gouvernement avaient honoré leur promesse de ne pas user du paragraphe E de l'article 18 de la loi électorale. « Cette décision reflète le souhait (...) exprimé par sa majesté le roi Hussein de permettre à tous les Jordanais, sans exception, d'exercer du droit sacré (le vote) sous l'égide de la constitution », a notamment déclaré Salem Mans'adeh.

De nombreux juristes considèrent l'attitude de l'Etat à l'égard de ce fameux amendement, adopté en 1966, comme un « acte » de sa volonté d'autoriser ou non un véritable scrutin démocratique. « Est illégitime, selon cet article, tout parti ou toute organisation dont les principes, les objectifs et les finalités sont en contradiction avec la constitution, explique un candidat de l'opposition. C'est une définition suffisamment floue pour laisser les mains totalement libres au pouvoir. »

Des 662 dossiers soumis aux huit gouvernements du royaume, seuls sept ont finalement été écartés pour « vice de procédures », a précisé avant-hier le ministre de l'Intérieur. Trois candidats, appartenant à des tribus bédouines, se sont ainsi vu refuser le droit de se présenter hors des régions où vivent leurs communautés d'origine.

Bien que Masboud Hadithieh, Naif Khreisha et Tawad al-Qadi aient engagé un recours devant la cour d'appel, dont le verdict sera connu le 25 octobre, il est peu probable qu'ils obtiennent gain de cause. « En tant que Bédouins, ils ne peuvent prétendre à un siège hors des deux circonscriptions qui leur sont réservées. Même s'ils ont été inscrits au travail à Amman ou Irbid », précise l'avocat Nabil Hadadine.

Trois autres exclus de la course à la députation ont dû renoncer faute de posséder la nationalité jordanienne depuis 10 ans, comme l'exige la loi. Ainsi de Nimr Sirhan al-Tamimi, palestinien de Cisjordanie, titulaire



Les banderoles et les caligons ont fleuri dans les rues dès l'ouverture de la campagne, samedi.

d'un passeport jordanien depuis 1987, et candidat à la candidature dans la cinquième circonscription d'Amman. Dans le dernier cas, le rejet a été motivé par le passé judiciaire du candidat. « Il est en effet interdit à tout individu condamné à une peine de plus d'un an de prison pour un délit de droit commun de se présenter aux élections », explique Nabil Hadadine.

Les règles du jeu

Si la loi de 1986 se révèle précise sur les conditions formelles à remplir par les candidats, les règles du jeu électoral prêtent parfois à confusion. En ont témoigné les trois premiers jours de la campagne officielle, au cours desquels ont fleuri caligons, tracts et cartes de visite, alors qu'aucun candidat n'était encore désigné.

Présenté comme un moment de « libéré offert à tous » par le ministre de l'Intérieur, ce décalage pour le moins surprenant a permis aux plus

rapides de planter leurs banderoles aux endroits stratégiques. « On a aussi vu des gens, qui ne se présentent pas, se faire beaucoup de publicités », assure Nabil Hadadine. « Sans ou non d'obtenir la validation de leurs dossiers, les candidats et leurs supporters se sont jetés dans la bataille. Objectif : arriver en 25 jours à sortir du lot et à toucher le plus d'électeurs possible. Mission d'autant plus urgente que dans certaines circonscriptions, on trouve plus d'une cinquantaine de prétendants à cinq ou huit sièges de députés. »

Si le ministre de l'Intérieur a logiquement choisi de fermer la télévision et la radio à la campagne électorale, faute de pouvoir satisfaire tout le monde, libre à chacun de trouver les meilleurs supports ou la meilleure combinaison. Les journaux ont ainsi été pris d'assaut par ceux dont le portefeuille permet de faire face à des tarifs, que les quotidiens n'ont pas hésités à augmenter de 50% en moyenne, peu avant le 14 octobre.

D'autres, sinon les mêmes, ont offert des banquettes panoramiques de 50 à 150 mètres. Certains ont pris

leur bâton de pèlerin, tel ce jeune candidat d'Amman, distribuant dans les maternités bonquets de fleurs et cartes de visite à quelque 70 jeunes mères ainsi qu'à un personnel médical. Malgré le peu de chance qu'ont les candidats pauvres de pouvoir rivaliser avec leurs adversaires riches ou notoirement connus, les autorités se refusent à toute intervention dans les moyens utilisés au cours de la campagne. Le ministre de l'Intérieur se contente ainsi à faire respecter le calme et la bienséance des propos échangés dans les débats publics (voir encadré). Soucieux d'éviter tout dérapage, il a notamment prohibé le port d'arme dans l'ensemble du royaume et suspendu tous les permis jusqu'au 9 novembre au moins.

« Nous avons surtout un gros travail d'information à faire », souligne-on au gouvernement. Il est vrai qu'aucune élection de cette envergure n'a été organisée depuis 22 ans, et que nombre de Jordanais se retrouvent perdus dans le mode de scrutin uninominal, ignorant parfois qu'ils auront plusieurs députés à élire dans leur circonscription. L'autre grande inconnue étant le faible pourcentage d'inscrits ayant retiré leur carte d'électeur. Lundi, ils n'étaient en effet que 554.371 sur 1.200.000 à l'avoir fait.

Reste le scrutin lui-même. 20.000 fonctionnaires et policiers, répartis dans quelque 2.000 bureaux de vote, seront chargés de veiller à ce qu'il se déroule dans une atmosphère libre et honnête », a déclaré mardi Salem Mans'adeh. Ils assisteront, de 7h00 à 19h00, les magistrats responsables des urnes et du dépouillement. Un dépouillement que le ministre de l'Intérieur espère suffisamment rapide pour annoncer les premiers résultats dans les 24 heures. « C'est un fardeau énorme », reconnaît Nabil Hadadine, « mais qu'il faut assumer. On ne peut pas, par exemple, de calculer le nombre de votes blancs ou nuls. »

Sonia Katani et Alain Remon.

Entre loi martiale et constitution

«Un code de bonne conduite»

Organisées en un temps record, les élections législatives du 8 novembre réenclenchent un processus de vie démocratique, en somme depuis 22 ans. Informer les candidats et définir les règles du jeu, entre loi martiale et constitution, constituent les principales tâches du gouvernement, explique au « Jourdain » le ministre de l'Intérieur, Salem Mans'adeh.

Le Jourdain : Certains électeurs restent persuadés qu'ils ne pourront voter que pour les candidats de leur confession ou de leur communauté, le 8 novembre. Le gouvernement envisage-t-il une campagne d'information civique pour expliquer très précisément les règles du scrutin ?

Salem Mans'adeh : Nous avons lancé une campagne dès mardi par voie d'affiches, à la radio, à la télévision, et surtout dans les journaux, pour expliquer le mode de scrutin et le déroulement des élections. Par ailleurs, le jour même du vote, il y aura devant chaque bureau de vote des notices, informant les électeurs de leurs droits et précisant notamment le nombre de députés musulmans, chrétiens, circassiens, à élire.

L.J. : Le très faible nombre de votants après avoir retiré leur carte d'électeur, disponibles depuis un mois, ne vous inquiète-t-il pas ?

S.M. : Il est vrai que la distribution des cartes d'électeurs ne s'effectue malheureusement pas assez vite. Nous savons que dans plusieurs circonscriptions, 20% seulement des cartes ont été retirées, alors qu'il ne reste que deux semaines pour le faire. C'est pourquoi nous avons décidé de concentrer une partie de notre campagne d'information sur ce problème précis.

L.J. : Que répondez-vous aux candidats qui estiment que les trois semaines de campagne électorale ne leur permettent pas de se faire suffisamment connaître du public ?

S.M. : Que c'est la loi. C'est elle qui fixe à 25 jours la durée de la campagne officielle. Ce qui est, à mon avis, suffisant.

L.J. : Les journaux ont augmenté en moyenne leurs tarifs publicitaires de 50%. L'Etat devrait-il intervenir ?

air pour garantir à tous les candidats les mêmes moyens d'expression ?

S.M. : La loi électorale limite le rôle de l'Etat à la définition du cadre et de la nature de la campagne. Nous n'exposons donc aucune surveillance sur les dépenses engagées et sur les moyens matériels utilisés. Par contre, nous avons interdit aux candidats de mettre plus d'une annonce par journal ou d'occuper plus d'une demi-page.

L.J. : Craignez-vous des abus électoralistes ? Nombre de candidats ont commencé leur campagne trois jours avant la validation des candidatures...

S.M. : Ils l'ont fait sous leur propre responsabilité. Nous aurions pu les en empêcher. Mais le gouvernement préfère n'intervenir que s'il le faut vraiment.

L.J. : C'est à dire ?

S.M. : La loi définit un code de bonne conduite, interdisant par exemple d'attaquer un adversaire. Si les candidats ne le respectent pas, dans leurs affiches ou les débats qu'ils organisent, nous les sanctionnerons sans hésiter.

L.J. : Quelles garanties offrez-vous aux candidats alors que la loi martiale reste en vigueur ?

S.M. : La loi martiale, je vous le dis, la conscience tranquille, n'a été utilisée que dans un cadre général, qui touche le bien du pays. Jamais, nous ne l'avons mise en application contre les libertés individuelles. C'est dans cet esprit que se déroulent les élections, même si nous vivons encore sous les lois d'exception.

Propos recueillis par S.K. et A.R.

EN BREF

RFA-OLP. La République fédérale d'Allemagne a officiellement pris contact lundi à Bonn avec l'Organisation de libération de la Palestine. Le secrétaire d'Etat ouest-allemand Jürgen Sudhoff s'est entretenu avec Bassam Abou Sharif, proche conseiller de Yasser Arafat. Tout en rappelant « l'attachement indéfectible [de la RFA] au principe du droit à l'existence d'Israël », le gouvernement d'Helmut Kohl a justifié cette première rencontre en soulignant « l'attitude mesurée » de l'OLP dans le conflit israëlo-arabe. Cette décision a été qualifiée de « déplorable » par Tel Aviv le jour même.

Afrique du Sud. Walter Sisulu, 77 ans, ancien secrétaire général du Congrès national africain (ANC) a été libéré dimanche en compagnie de sept autres militants politiques noirs par les autorités sud-africaines après plus de 26 ans de détention. Lundi, la Ligue arabe a appelé la communauté internationale à faire pression sur Pretoria pour obtenir la libération de Nelson Mandela, leader de l'ANC, au moment même où le gouvernement de l'apartheid annonçait être disposé à engager des négociations directes et sans conditions avec cette organisation clandestine.

Attentat. Le directeur du service de comptabilité de l'ambassade d'Arabie Saoudite à Ankara a perdu ses deux jambes dans un attentat, lundi dernier. Abdurrahman Shirewi, 32 ans, a été blessé par une bombe à retardement, placée dans sa voiture et qui a explosé alors que le diplomate se trouvait au volant.

Ariane. Le 34e lancement de la fusée européenne Ariane aura lieu dans la nuit du 27 au 28 octobre depuis la base de Kourou en Guyane française. Ariane doit placer sur orbite géostationnaire le très gros satellite de télécommunications international Intelsat-6 F2.

Faux. La police française vient de procéder à la plus importante saisie jamais réalisée dans l'Hexagone d'objets d'art contrefaits. Au terme d'une enquête de huit mois, les policiers ont trouvé, au domicile d'un restaurateur d'art et revendeur d'objets anciens de la banlieue parisienne, plus d'une vingtaine de contrefaçons de bronzes de Rodin, Renoir, Daubigny, Barye et Pompon.

Immigration. La section française de l'association arabe des droits de l'Homme (ASADH) a dénoncé dimanche à Paris « la privation de droits dont continue de souffrir l'immigration arabe en France », à l'occasion de sa troisième assemblée générale. Dans son rapport, l'ASADH estime que les « problèmes et les obstacles qui surgissent chaque fois que des immigrés projettent de construire ou d'aménager une mosquée ou une salle de prière », illustrent cette discrimination.

Plagiat. Un écrivain chypriote vient d'accuser Umberto Eco d'avoir « copié » dans l'un de ses propres livres la trame du best-seller international, « Le Nom de la rose » et lui réclame près de 5 millions de dollars de dédommagement. L'affaire a éclaté quand le livre, récemment traduit en grec, est tombé entre les mains du président de l'union des écrivains chypriotes, Kostas Sakratos, qui y a « reconnu » l'un de ses romans, « Aphronismenos », paru en 1984.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Amadeus. de Milos Forman, avec F. Murray Abraham, Tom Hulce et Elisabeth Berridge. L'histoire (romanesque) de la vie de Mozart et de la jalousie de Salieri, compositeur de cour détré par le jeune prodige... Centre américain, jeudi 19 et dimanche 22 octobre à 19h00 (en anglais).

Caravans. Le Sphinx. Lundi 23: Who d'are, wins; Samedi: Midnight Express; Mercredi: Into the night. Mardi 24: Little drummer girl; The Egyptian; Ascent; Time walker; Kill Rammell; Mercredi 25: La Lune dans le caniveau; Black Sunday; K.9; Giza Ghetto; Salome. Films en version originale. Tél: 683961. Route de l'université, à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem, puis première à gauche, 300 m.

La Maison assassinée. de Georges Lautner, avec Patrick Bruel et Anne Brochet (1988). De retour dans son village après la première guerre mondiale, Séraphin découvre peu à peu l'horrible vérité sur la mort de ses parents, que tous les habitants cherchent à oublier. Centre culturel royal, jeudi 19 octobre à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe). 1 diase; demi-tarif pour les étudiants.

Les Savants et la Révolution. En plein tourbillon révolutionnaire, non seulement les idées politiques mais aussi la recherche scientifique vont de l'avant. En témoignent les inventions du télescope, du parachute, du gaz d'éclairage par les savants français de l'époque. Centre culturel français, du 24 au 31 octobre (inauguration mardi à 18h00).

L'Alégho del diamanti. de Tommaso Dazzi, avec Philippe Leroy et Gianni Cavina. Aventure... Hays arts centre, jeudi 19 octobre à 19h00 (en italien).

Rome, XVIIe siècle. Les chefs-d'œuvre de la peinture italienne du XVIIe siècle, photographiés par le célèbre atelier Alinari. Centre culturel royal jusqu'au 21 octobre. Université de Mar'a, du 24 au 29.

Ciné-club. Séances à 14h00, 16h00, 18h00, 20h00. Projection pour les jeunes jeudi à 16h00; nouveau film, lundi à 20h00, pour les membres du club.

Jewell 19: Les Chariots de feu; Tropic line 0; Contar force; Unsettled land; After the for.

Vendredi 20: L'Archer et le sorcier; Blazing saddles; Les Diamants du Nil; Still the sky; You can't win them all; Moonraker; Samedi 21: Carry on Cleo; Moonraker; Blade runner; Cagliostro; Hanna K; Dimanche 22: Evil under the skin; Le Désert des Tartares; Code name: Soldier.

Silence, on tourne. 50 ans de cinéma français. Cette semaine: les années de guerre, illustrées par « Les Visiteurs du soir » de Carné. JTV, dimanche 22 octobre à 19h15.

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Au secours des oasis du Maghreb

Le palmier-dattier éprouvetté

La culture in vitro du palmier-dattier devient une priorité pour les pays du Maghreb, dont les oasis ont été décimées par le bayoud, un champignon parasite dévastateur.

Née en Egypte il y a environ 7000 ans, la culture du palmier-dattier est évaluée dans le monde à 100 millions d'arbres, produisant un ton de quel- que 2 millions de tonnes de fruits par an. Une production dont le Maghreb assure à lui seul près de 20%, avec plus de 20 millions de palmiers recensés.

A la fin du siècle dernier, le Maroc figurait au troisième rang mondial des pays producteurs. Aujourd'hui, avec moins de 5 millions d'arbres, le royaume doit procéder à des importations de plants. Les deux-tiers de ses plantiers ont en effet été détruits par l'homme, l'envahisseur du désert, et surtout par le bayoud.

Ce champignon parasite attaque qui plus est les meilleures espèces de palmiers. Apparu au début du siècle au Maroc, il s'est rapidement propagé vers l'Algérie et fait peser une sérieuse menace sur les principaux pays producteurs que sont la Tunisie, le Soudan et l'Egypte.

La maladie, qui au Maroc anéantit 150.000 à 200.000 plants chaque année, apporte avec elle un cortège de désolations. La destruction progressive d'une palmeraie modifie notamment le micro-climat qui y règne, favorable aux cultures sous-

jacantes et à l'élevage. Elle provoque à terme l'exode des habitants des régions touchées et s'agit, à l'heure actuelle, de la plus grave menace pour les oasis du Maghreb.

La datte n'est pas seulement le fruit que l'on offre avec le lait, en signe de bienvenue, ou avec lequel on rompt le jeûne pendant le Ramadan. Elle constitue l'aliment essentiel des hommes du désert. La consommation de dattes par an et par habitant atteint par exemple 6 kilos au Maroc ou au Soudan et 29 kilos en Arabie Saoudite.

Les tentatives de lutte chimique contre le bayoud se sont révélées sans effet. C'est pourquoi la recherche s'est orientée en 1984 au Maroc vers des programmes de développement de cultures en laboratoire. Cultiver in vitro des tissus adultes de palmiers permet d'obtenir plusieurs milliers de plants identiques, à partir d'un seul arbre.

Les succès enregistrés ces dernières années ont permis aux agronomes du Maghreb d'envisager un programme ambitieux, qui va de la reconstruction des oasis touchées par le bayoud à la plantation d'une dizaine de millions de plants en 10 ans.

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A savoir

A partir du mois de novembre, le Jourdain change de jour de parution. Vous retrouverez la page en français dans l'édition du SAMEDI et non plus du JEUDI.

Myopathie: un cas unique en Jordanie

Condamné à mourir jeune

Il y a quelques années encore, personne n'en parlait. La myopathie, qui touche un enfant sur cent mille dans le monde, est pourtant une maladie mortelle. En France, il a fallu une émission de télévision de 24 heures, l'an dernier, pour sensibiliser le public à un mal incurable, qui détruit les muscles et face auquel la médecine demeure impuissante. Une impuissance que vit au jour le jour Maher, 11 ans, seul cas recensé jusqu'à présent en Jordanie.

C'est par une journée très chaude de l'été 1978 que Maher voit le jour à l'hôpital de Salt. Son poids est normal et aucun signe particulier n'inquiète ses parents. Le diagnostic médical est formel: R.A.S., bébé normal de sexe masculin.

Jusqu'à l'âge de 4 ans, Maher vit une enfance heureuse et sans encombre. Il sort dans la rue, court, prend part à tous les jeux de ses camarades. A 5 ans, c'est l'école. Les premiers mois, c'est un plaisir. Puis une fatigue, spontanée, commence à le rendre plus hésitant. Même son cartable lui semble très lourd. Pour monter la moindre marche, le voilà obligé de pousser sa main sur son genou.

Ces signes répétés ont attiré l'attention de ses parents. « On pensait alors à un excès d'exercices physiques, car Maher adorait courir et se dépensait généreusement lors des parties de football avec ses copains, expliquent-ils. Mais pour en avoir le coeur net, on l'a conduit chez un médecin, qui à l'époque nous rassura. Il s'agissait, selon lui, de rhumatismes articulaires dus aux amygdalites. On les lui a donc enlevées. »

L'année suivante, Maher a pourtant le geste plus lent et éprouve de plus en plus de mal à se déplacer. Son état s'aggrave, au point de lui faire perdre l'équilibre dès qu'il bute sur le

moindre obstacle. Il y a 4 ans, il se retrouve incapable de bouger sans l'aide d'une tierce personne. Ses chutes deviennent plus fréquentes. Ses frères le portent sur leur dos pour l'emmener à l'école. Les plaisanteries et les rires de ses camarades de classe lui rendent cependant les cours insupportables. Ses parents décident de le garder à la maison, où tout le monde prend soin de lui.

A 8 ans, Maher est définitivement « différent » de ses copains: il n'ira plus à l'école. « Depuis que le médecin nous a révélé la gravité de sa maladie, je ne dors plus, dit sa mère en sanglotant. Je ne fais que des cauchemars. Toutes les nuits, devant dans ma tête des images atroces. Je n'arrive pas à croire que mon fils soit condamné à jamaï. »

Maher est en effet atteint d'un mal très rare, entraînant la mort à la fin de la puberté, comme l'explique le docteur Adnan Abdullah, neurologue à Amman: « La myopathie est une maladie qui se manifeste chez l'enfant à partir de 4 ou 5 ans par des difficultés à se mouvoir. Une ou deux années plus tard, le malade ne peut plus marcher, ni se tenir debout et peine même à lever les bras. A l'âge de 14 ou 15 ans, les voies respiratoires se détériorent et le muscle cardiaque n'arrive plus à fonctionner normale-



quartier et se renseigne auprès de mes voisins de la véracité de mes propos. »

Mahmoud n'est malheureusement pas au bout de ses surprises. Dans son rapport, la commission conclut qu'il n'entre pas dans la catégorie des « ayant-droit ». Motif: le père de Maher gagne bien sa vie et possède une voiture. « J'ai en beau leur expliquer que je suis un chômeur depuis quatre ans, que la voiture en question est une vieille Renault 12, et que c'est ma femme qui subvient aux besoins de la famille grâce à son travail, ils ont refusé. »

Loi de toutes ces tracasseries, assis sur le divan qui lui sert également de lit, Maher admire sa modestie collection d'autos miniatures et feuille- tte passionnément, bien que difficilement, quelques vieux « Auto-Jour- nal » que son cousin lui a rapportés du Koweït. Sa voiture préférée: une Rover, à 4 roues motrices.

Hanafi Silabi.

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Jordan Times'
JORDAN MARKET PLACE

RJ repays \$192m debt

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN — The Royal Jordanian (RJ) airline has sold its fleet of aeroplanes to repay debt and now only owns two of its aeroplanes — a Tri Star and a Boeing.

According to Hussam Abu Ghazaleh, director-general of the airlines, RJ was able to repay a debt of \$192 million by selling these aeroplanes.

At a press conference held at the Plaza Hotel Wednesday, Abu Ghazaleh explained that RJ originally bought five aeroplanes but did not have the money to pay for them "so the installments and the interest on these aeroplanes were very large."

RJ took a two-day loan from a conglomerate of banks, paid the full price of the aeroplanes to gain full ownership and then sold them and rented them back. "The fact that the value of the dinar decreased after this deal was completed saved RJ many expenses," he noted.

Abu Ghazaleh stressed that such practices were being followed in many countries around the world and cited Gulf Air and Cathay Pacific as examples.

"In view of the very high costs of aeroplanes it is now becoming common practice to rent aeroplanes rather than buying them," Abu Ghazaleh said.

He further explained that RJ has made a deal whereby it would pay rent on the aeroplanes for 12 years and then "we would pay one dollar and gain ownership of the planes."

He declined answering a question on the budget of RJ until the final budget is approved by the board of directors and the cabinet. But he said that RJ does have a debt of JD 29 million to Jordan's petroleum corporation, "and there are plans now to pay this debt as soon as possible."

But he maintained that RJ cannot be assessed by the standards of a losing or profit making organisation "because we have certain advantages and assets which we can assess according to

their financial value."

"The right to transport to certain areas, for example, have a monetary value," Abu Ghazaleh said.

He said that the new management has taken steps to "adapt to the new economic realities in the Kingdom" by halting their flight routes to Los Angeles, Miami and Athens as well as limiting the number of RJ employees in the United States offices.

According to Abu Ghazaleh, RJ will continue to support tourism to the Kingdom and will step up its efforts by training employees in offices outside the Kingdom to answer questions on tourism in Jordan.

"We consider our offices outside the country tourism offices and we want to develop them further," Abu Ghazaleh added noting that RJ will endeavour to support projects within the Kingdom which would enhance tourism such as contributing to the establishment of hotels in tourist areas like the sea port of Aqaba and commercial land transportation.

"This industry (tourism) is immediately connected to our work and would enrich our business," Abu Ghazaleh said.



Hussam Abu Ghazaleh, director-general of Royal Jordanian.

He added that the new management has introduced a "Meet the Management" programme whereby top executives in RJ would visit the different depart-

ments within RJ and talk to employees and listen to their problems and suggestions.

But Abu Ghazaleh said that RJ does not have any plans to raise the salaries of its employees at this time "but we are studying ways to provide them with more services."

Food subsidies cost Third World \$26b

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yentzer said Tuesday that the agricultural policies of the United States, the European Community and Japan was costing the developing world \$26 billion a year in lost income.

In a speech at the United States, Yentzer also said a preoccupation with the environment should not be used as an excuse to neglect scientific advances in food production.

"To view all use of agricultural chemicals as harmful, or to view advances in biotechnology with irrational suspicion — as is now being promoted in some quarters — makes no sense at all," he said in an appeal for improved agricultural technology.

Yentzer, who spoke at ceremonies commemorating World Food Day, said industrialised nations have an array of food subsidies and barriers that raise production at home and reduce world commodities prices.

"Now, I ask you all, the developed countries of the world, which would be better? To help the developing countries with \$26 billion in aid or to help the developing countries with \$26 billion in trade corrections? he said."

The head of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said earlier that modern agriculture had become a fearsome agent of environmental destruction as well as one of its main victims.

FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma said mankind

had caused unprecedented degradation of soil, water and air by failing to respect the balance of the environment and using huge amounts of chemicals.

"Doping has been relentlessly pursued in the sports world, and yet mankind continues its lethal self-poisoning as we systematically and freely dope the very plants and animals that are our only source of food, Saouma said in a speech.

"At the very time when the big nations of the world are finally contemplating the prospect of abolishing chemical weapons, we are waging a senseless and total chemical war on nature," he said. "The challenge is clear," he added. "We must find ways to grow more food without draining the soil of its fertility, to raise more livestock without turning grazing land into wasteland, and harvest more fish without robbing the waters of their life."

Saouma said that world production was giving rise to food surpluses but 500 million people still did not have enough to eat.

French Agriculture Minister Henri Nallet said that the threat to the environment was the issue that had finally forced both rich and poor countries to realise they must act together to save the world.

He said the slogan "there is only one earth" encapsulated the increasing awareness that "beyond their geographical, cultural and political differences people... collectively responsible for this planet whose limited resources they share."

Wall Street weathers quake

NEW YORK (R) — Wall Street stocks shrugged off the California earthquake and rose slightly Wednesday as the market cleared a new test of its ability to hold up after its Friday-13th plunge.

After initially falling nearly 20 points, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 3.89 points to 2,642.62 by 11 a.m. (1500 GMT). Advances led declines 6-5 on New York Stock Exchange volume of 56 million shares.

The San Francisco quake, which took a grim toll with more than 270 deaths, was expected to create big financial costs and some had feared a sharp reaction in the market.

"The quake was not an economic U.S. disaster and selling is emotional. However, it's a nervous market," one trader said as prices fell at first.

Stocks of insurance companies and some California-based concerns were weakened by the news of the quake, which appeared

likely to leave damage in the billions of dollars.

But traders here said the market saw no broad-based economic troubles due to the disaster. And some stocks of building materials concerns were in demand.

Some traders in other global markets had feared that the quake might topple a New York market already tipsy from Friday's 190-point plunge and an unexpectedly bad U.S. trade report Tuesday.

Dealers said the dollar, which eased to 1.8505 Deutschmarks from 1.8660 Tuesday, was pressured by the earthquake, but also by a report early in the day that U.S. housing starts had fallen to a seven-year low in September, with an unexpected 5.2 per cent drop.

The housing starts report added to the recent body of evidence of a weakening U.S. economy, demonstrated most con-

vincingly with a 31 per cent surge in the trade deficit to \$10.8 billion for August. This led to an 18.65-point drop in the Dow industrials Tuesday.

The housing report again lifted the government bond market, which has been gaining on the view that the Federal Reserve,

the U.S. central bank, will ease interest rates to keep the economy afloat.

The prospect of pipeline damage from the California earthquake raised European oil prices Wednesday, although prices eased here later to stand unchanged.



Publi-Graphics holds advanced media workshop

AMMAN (J.T.) — Publi-Graphics, the Middle East's leading advertising agency, recently held an advanced Media Strategy Workshop at the Hyatt Regency, Dubai. The intensive 3-day programme was attended by Media Managers and senior Account Executives from various Publi-Graphics branches including Jeddah, Riyadh, Dubai, Kuwait and London.

Specially flown down for the workshop, a prominent London Media Director provided valuable insight on all aspects of Media Strategy Development. In depth discussions via case studies served to highlight the importance of using advanced Media Strategies and Media Selection for increased effectiveness.

The workshop also concentrated on the latest Media evaluation techniques used internationally and already in use at Publi-Graphics for the entire Middle East.

With regard to new developments taking place in advertising in the Middle East the group also discussed the media planning techniques used in London and their relevance to the Middle East market.

Bad news darken Philippine economy

MANILA (AP) — The Philippines posted a balance of payments deficit of \$200 million for the first five months of the year after a surplus during the same period in 1988, the government has announced.

It was the third dose of bad economic news reported by the government. It earlier said economic growth was slowing down and that inflation was increasing.

In the latest report, the central bank said the balance of payments deficit would have mushroomed to \$696 million except for the rescheduling of some of the country's foreign debts.

During the first five months of last year, the government reported a balance of payments surplus of \$123 million.

The government blamed the deficit largely on an increase in current account deficit from \$200 million in the first five months of 1988 to \$637 million during the same period this year.

An increase in import payments for goods and services was responsible for widening the current account deficit, the bank said.

Imports for the first five months amounted to \$4,043 billion, while exports reached \$3,088 billion, the bank said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Wednesday October 18, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	627.0	632.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	441.1	445.5
Pound Sterling	990.5	1000.9	Dutch guilder	298.8	301.8
Deutschmark	337.4	340.8	Swedish crown	97.1	98.1
Swiss franc	384.5	388.3	Italian lira (for 100)	45.8	46.3
			Belgian franc (for 10)	126.9	128.5

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — A major earthquake in San Francisco unnerved an already jittery Australian share market which retreated amid concerns about Wall Street's direction Wednesday. The All Ordinaries Index closed 33.4 down at 1,629.2.

TOKYO — Wary investors with an eye on the dollar let the Tokyo index float up slowly on Tuesday's momentum to close broadly higher. The Nikkei climbed 111.48 to 35,107.56.

HONG KONG — Nervous local investors sold stocks ahead of the New York opening on expected falls in insurance stocks after the U.S. earthquake. The Hang Seng index fell 67.35 points to 2,628.55.

SINGAPORE — The market closed easier across the board, but above the day's lows on late short-covering and some bargain-hunting. The Straits Times industrial index fell 31.61 points to 1,310.22.

BOMBAY — Share prices rebounded on heavy buying by state-owned investment trusts after Tuesday's slump. Tata Steel, Nocl and Voltas firmed 35 rupees to 1,210.

FRANKFURT — Prices of major German shares ended an extended bourse session higher as trade returned to normal after two days of turbulence. The Dax index ended 15.70 points up at 1,491.14.

ZURICH — The all-share performance index gained 6.5 points to 1,122.37 but insurers fell due to the San Francisco earthquake.

PARIS — Takeover speculation returned to a market encouraged by Wall Street's firmness. The CAC-40 index gained 1.24 per cent to 1,828.13.

LONDON — London shares continued the track Wall Street's volatile movements but ended at the day's high, up 34.6 to 2,170.1.

NEW YORK — U.S. shares climbed slowly after an early fall. At 1530 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were up 15.16 to 2653.89.



"Your mother always said your ears are dirty enough to grow potatoes in. Maybe we could start a profitable farm."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Harri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YASSA
GULEN
DIRNEH
SYPEDE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: OUR

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: CYNIC FAMED BARREL ABRUPT
Answer: How the backseat driver's husband drove — BY EAR

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

ACC aviation insurers open meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Directors of companies dealing with civil aviation insurance and representatives of insurance companies in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries opened a three day meeting in Amman. A spokesman for the meeting said that issues pertaining to cooperation among the national airlines with regard to pricing, ground services and reinsurance will be among the topics to be discussed at the meeting. Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline's director-general Hussam Abu Ghazaleh addressed the opening session underlining the fact that the ACC airlines constitute an essential element in the ongoing integration among the ACC states.

Arbitration conference opens Monday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Third Arab-European arbitration conference will open in Amman Monday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, with the participation of 350 specialists in law, economics and other experts from around the world. The three-day meeting will be devoted to discussing arbitration issues in the Arab World, inter-Arab agreements involving arbitration, arbitration in international commerce and amendments to the existing arbitration laws in Arab countries. According to the organisers, the participants will present ideas and proposals about certain legislations and about arbitration in general in the first half of the 20th century citing experiments in the United States and the United Kingdom.

CAEU urges payment of dues

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Wednesday issued an appeal to Arab countries to fulfil their financial commitments to the council so that it can pursue efforts towards serving Arab economies. The appeal was made by CAEU Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim upon opening the 17th annual meeting of companies set up by CAEU. Certain Arab countries have failed to pay up their contributions to Pan-Arab companies, thus further delaying the implementation of the companies' activities and programmes, Ibrahim continued. The meeting, Ibrahim noted, is bound to boost the work of CAEU and those companies affiliated to it, and will no doubt contribute towards integration among Arab states. Taking part in the two-day meeting, are representatives of the Arab Mining Company, the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA), the Arab Company for Livestock Development and the Arab Company for Industrial Investments as well as representatives of Arab countries and other Arab organisations. A CAEU spokesman said the meeting will review a report on the companies' activities and studies that they had conducted for new projects in the Arab World.

Frangoul heads Iraqi central bank

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein appointed one of his advisers, Subhy Frangoul, as governor of the central bank Tuesday, Baghdad radio said. It said Frangoul, a career technocrat, took the oath before Hussein.



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day to make sure you have all your facts and figures down pat as there are aspects currently influencing present conditions which indicate confused or muddled thinking and behaviour of an uncertain nature.

ARIES: (March 20 to April 17) A couple you have been expecting from a distance will now happily arrive. Invite a talented friend who can be helpful to into your home.

TAURUS: (April 18 to May 19) Accept an invitation from a couple of friends to go on a jaunt. Be off to visit relatives and neighbours with your attachment.

GEMINI: (May 20 to June 20) Make a point now to visit friends and close companions who are at a distance. A good day for your fall office home cleaning.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) Don't delay at your work or you lose some big opportunities. A couple will give you the right ideas to make more money through your talents.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Meeting with groups of friends can be most helpful to you. Exactitude in business and finances now will pay off dividends to you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Think over putting out any money carefully now before making

ing a commitment. Carry through with any promise that you have made to your attachment.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) Be very active with friends but avoid a potential confrontation with one. You don't like some home expenses but they are necessary and have to be paid.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Open your mind to all sorts of different business ideas. Highly particular friends now will give you very good suggestions. Accept it.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 20) You have opportunities at home to enjoy bringing outside charms. This is a time when you would be wise to economize carefully.

CAPRICORN: (December 21 to January 18) Lots of good new ideas of business will come from newcomers in your life. Entertain at home but avoid inviting anyone who is argumentative.

AQUARIUS: (January 19 to February 17) A friend will have for you a business idea that will require much delving into. With all the friends now about, don't lose your good judgement.

PISCES: (February 18 to March 19) You and your family should join with outside contacts at recreation. A day to make a point to be alone with your attachment.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1989

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The one way to charm your way through today's mixed aspects is through the lighter side of life where social outlets, romance and similar matters are the focal point. Hidden talents need to be expressed.

ARIES: (March 20 to April 17) Travelling with several friends would be excellent now. You and your family can now work out excellent relationships both personally and business-wise.

TAURUS: (April 18 to May 19) You will need to put more effort and skill into a plan of a business nature. Make your home charming. Then entertain everyone who charms you.

GEMINI: (May 20 to June 20) Be off on trips with friends so you can visit neighbours and close companions. Conditions that have been difficult or postponed can now be put in effect at your residence.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) Several persons now of varied experience will give you excellent ideas for your work. Take your family into your confidence about your business affairs now.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your basic duties at home can no longer be put off. Lots of association with your loved ones is vitally important now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Now is the time to arrange

important jaunts or trips with your family. Cooperative business associates will certainly be helpful to you in your business affairs.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) Much activity with friends will require that you do considerable entertaining. A friend will aid you to get some money released that is being held.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Much excitement at home can make conditions at your dwelling more pleasant. Business matters of policy, different from your usual ones can now occupy your attention.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 20) Take home, some art, beauty or colour for your home now. A trip together now would bring you and your attachment much closer.

CAPRICORN: (December 21 to January 18) Lots of information about business is available to you from experts. Go along with viewpoints that are very important to your own clan.

AQUARIUS: (January 19 to February 17) Try to see as many friends as possible whom you have not seen recently. Straighten out any financial problems now with your loved one.

PISCES: (February 18 to March 19) All kinds of interesting ideas for making money are now yours. Show your attachment your affection by following wishes given.

Edberg beats Michibata

TOKYO (AP) — Top-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden trounced Canadian Glenn Michibata 6-1, 6-3 Wednesday in the first round of the \$627,500 Seiko Super Tennis tournament.

Edberg, ranked third in the world, broke service twice in the first set and three times in the second, winding up the 62-minute match with a drop shot.

Qualifier Michibata, ranked no. 179 in the world, managed one service break in the second set on the official court of the Yoyogi National Stadium.

"I'm quite satisfied with today's game," Edberg said. "I felt confident and enjoyed the game very much as a first round match."

He said he expected a tough game Thursday against Australian John Fitzgerald, who beat Edberg 7-6 (7-2), 6-0 in this tournament's semifinals last year.

In another first round match, Ronald Agnir of Haiti struggled two hours and 22 minutes for a 6-7 (4-7), 6-2, 7-5 triumph over Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka, who let two match points slip away at 5-4 in the third set.

Agnir, no. 39, and Matsuoka, no. 124, each broke service after reaching 5-5 in the first set. Matsuoka took the tie-break on a double fault by Agnir, a serve and a volley.

In the third set, the 21-year-old Matsuoka fired a pair of two aces for a 5-4 lead, but with double match point in the 10th game, he netted a forehand from the baseline and then hit a ball into the spectators' seats.

Agnir said, "I was lucky as this artificial surface is fit for me. It was a very tough match but Matsuoka is still young and he was nervous during the game."

Ali, Foreman, Frazier sell a bit of nostalgia

LONDON (R) — Former heavyweight boxing champions Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier and George Foreman, whose title bouts gave boxing some of its greatest moments, made a rare appearance Tuesday to sell a bit of nostalgia.

At a news conference to promote a video of some of their greatest fights, Foreman, who is attempting a comeback at the age of 41, said they would all have beaten current champion Mike Tyson.

"I think everyone at this table would have whipped Mike Tyson," Foreman told a gathering of fans and journalists. "And if anyone thinks Tyson will beat George Foreman, you'd better put your straight-jacket on."

Foreman, world champion from 1973 to 1976, is due to fight fellow American Gerry Cooney in Atlantic City on Jan. 15 next year.

He is hoping the fight will lead to a stab at Tyson himself.

But despite Foreman's bravado, the man who always described himself as "the greatest," three-time world champion Ali, was a sad shadow of his former self.

The debilitating neurological disorder, Parkinson's disease, from which Ali has suffered in the last few years has slowed him down and robbed him of his trademark "shuffle," the lightning footwork that saved him from many a knockout punch in his 21-year professional career.

While Foreman and Frazier engaged in verbal sparring, Ali, whose speech has been affected by the disease, remained quiet. "I can't believe I said those crazy things," he said of the quick rhyming repartee that made him famous.

Foreman harangued Ali, trying to get him into a ring to demonstrate the shuffle one last time. Despite the pleas of a crowd of old fans, Ali would not budge.

Karpov meets Timman in candidates' final

LONDON (R) — Former Soviet champion Anatoly Karpov, playing his finest game in the world chess championship semi-finals, beat compatriot Artur Yusupov Tuesday and will face Jan Timman of the Netherlands in the final.

Karpov took the initiative after an uninspired game by Yusupov, who fell behind on the clock and made a mistake on his 18th move which ultimately cost him the eighth and final game.

The game was a Lasker's defence in the queen's gambit and followed theory until the 17th move, when Yusupov found himself in trouble. Yusupov, facing a time scramble in a hopelessly lost position, made the time control in the 40th move, but resigned 13 moves later.

The contest between Timman and Britain's Jon Speelman produced a fascinating and complex game.

For much of the time, Speelman, playing black, had the advantage. But on the 22nd move, he completely overlooked

the possibility of Timman employing a particularly knight manoeuvre. When the dust settled, Timman was a pawn ahead and in a superior position.

The game was a variation of the appropriately named English opening, recently employed by world champion Garry Kasparov against fellow Soviet grandmaster Rafael Vaganian.

Timman applied his more experienced technique in a way that Speelman, who may have hoped to reach adjournment after six hours play with chances of finding a swindle, was forced to capitulate after the 54th move.

The winners will receive approximately £50,000 (\$79,000) and the losers £30,000 (\$47,000) — depending on the exchange rate with the Swiss franc, the currency in which the prize money is held.

The contest will provide the next challenger for world champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union.

Final scores:
Karpov, Yusupov 4.5, 3.5
Timman, Speelman 4.5, 3.5

Graf has mind on Maradona after defeating Fendick

ZURICH (R) — World number one Steffi Graf completed the formality of first round victory in the European indoor tennis championships Tuesday but said afterwards she was more excited by the prospect of watching Diego Maradona play football.

The top-seeded West German registered a comfortable 6-3, 6-1 win over American Patty Fendick in the opening round of the \$250,000 tournament, an event she won in 1986 and 1987. "I am very pleased with the way I played but it was not a real test. I was somewhat impatient at her because she was so slow in serving. I wanted her to get on with it," Graf said.

"I am more excited at seeing Diego Maradona play here tomorrow for Napoli. He is one of my favourites. The schedule has

been arranged to make sure I can see the match."

The Argentine World Cup captain and his side take on Swiss club Wettingen in the second round of their UEFA Cup defence on the day Graf plays South African Dinky van Rensburg in the second round.

THE Daily Crossword by Peter Swift

ACROSS

- Insects
- Secretive one
- Salt
- Sire
- Sound system
- Imitated
- Bricklayer
- Chase fly
- bulb
- Le Gallienne
- Grav work?
- Weight losers
- Baseball hits
- Joined up: abbr.
- Street sign
- Magpie and Mince
- Once that rate
- light
- Tints
- Sch. subj.
- Midwest: abbr.
- Ways: abbr.
- scientist
- Salter
- Take a break
- Pulls a boner
- "The — of St. Agnes" (Knots)
- Food dispensers?
- Audience shouts
- Rainbow
- Bag
- Sounds of hesitation
- Meet out
- Job boss
- Jacob's brother
- A Marley
- "Common Sense" author
- Mailed
- Gals
- Sea birds

DOWN

- Literary monogram
- Salsa
- In the past
- Belief
- Allen and McQueen
- Half a dance
- Speech
- problem
- Walking
- Coal workers
- Vegas
- 11 Safe shelter
- Eng. author
- Borders
- First First
- Lady's first name
- "— Vice"
- College bighw
- Run into
- Lighting expert
- Turna ranckl
- Factory
- Whitakeys
- Gaffer Cabin
- Toy stuff
- Night sound
- Throw
- Misalsalpi
- has four
- Planet Errol
- Filbert
- Trails
- Abraha
- U.K. part
- Originated
- Doughy pastry
- Annual award
- Heal
- 62 Filbert
- 64 Grid scores
- 65 Container
- 66 Single
- 67 Legal thing

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ALICE FINANCIAL MIEAL
DORA RUSSES ABLE
FINDINGALPILATE
EDWARDS MAJOR
FORD SPAT
GALINITY TILES CIAA
HAWK MADRE ABE
YODIAEAEDUDEL
DOD AVASTY OEST
TINY WEST ALSES
NINA RORIT
ACCORD SACRDATE
YODRIPITICRITIT
APPE HORE KOLA
DEER TARDOR EVER

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For more information please call 658696/7

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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BEST TURNS OUT SECOND-BEST

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♦ A K 7 3 2
♥ A Q 6 5 2
♦ Q 10 6
♣ Void

WEST EAST
♠ J 8 4 3 ♠ 7
♥ 7 4 ♠ A 3
♦ A J 9 5 ♠ Q 8 7 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ 6 5
♥ K 10
♦ K J 9 8 5 2
♣ K 10 4

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
6 ♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♣
Watching Sunday afternoon football, how often have you seen a seemingly easy pass fall incomplete because the receiver takes his eye off the ball. Today's hand is the equivalent in bridge.

Note South's waiting bid of three spades. He wanted to see whether his partner's jump shift was based

on diamond support. When he learned that it was, he wasted no time in getting to slam.

West led a trump to his partner's ace, and a trump came back. When East followed, the hand seemed too easy for words. Declarer could ruff a club, discard one on a high heart and set up a long heart to take care of the other club. So he cashed the king of hearts and crossed to the ace, to find that he had encountered a disastrous split. His only remaining chance was that spades would divide evenly. But when that chance didn't materialize, the slam went abogging.

Declarer tackled his suits in the wrong order. See the difference if, after winning the second trump, declarer goes after spades first. When both defenders follow to two rounds of spades, it is a simple matter to set up a long spade by ruffing, crossing back with a club ruff for another spade ruff, then getting back with hearts to take two discards.

What if spades break 5-1? Then declarer still has time to go after the hearts, since he needs to ruff only one heart and to find a 4-2 break there to establish an extra trick.

LOST PASSPORT

Jahangir Osmaiv Ali announces the loss of his passport number E-055298 issued in Bangladesh.

Whoever finds it, please hand to the nearest police station. Thank you

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in
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Terry Farrell...in
CRAZY LEGS

Performances: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

MANDINGO

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOM

STEVEN SPIELBERG AND
WALT DISNEY STUDIOS
Present
who framed
ROGER RABBIT

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

Dustin Hoffman
Tom Cruise
in
RAIN MAN

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 5:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

